Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXII, Issue No. 165 | FRIDAY JULY 13, 2012 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

'Numbers errors' force House to hold off vote on budget bill. PAGE 3
CUC refuses to return $800K to customers despite canceled loan. PAGE 6

House OKs Social Security bill

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

By a vote of 14-3 and after lengthy discussion, the House of Representatives passed late afternoon yesterday a Fitial administration-drafted bill "expressing the desire" of the CNMI to transfer active government employees to the U.S. Social Security program.

House Bill 17-312 is on its way to the Senate.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said last night that the bill will be referred to the Special Committee on Retirement Fund issues chaired by Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota).

"It will be up to the committee what to recommend or do with it. But I don't see any major debate on that bill," Manglona told *Saipan Tribune*.

The Fitial administration's plan is to implement the Social Security program effective Oct. 1, 2012.

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian), and House minority leader Joe Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) were the only ones who voted "no" to the bill.

See BILL on Page 4

CONFIRMED HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
From left, Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota), Edward C. Sablan, and Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan) take a breather after the Senate confirmed Sablan's re-appointment to the Commonwealth Development Authority board of directors yesterday morning. The Senate adopted by a vote of 7-0 the Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations' report recommending Sablan's reappointment.

$33M food stamp phase-in for NMI in farm bill

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The House Agriculture Committee has approved $33 million for a five-year phase-in of the national food stamp program in the Northern Marianas. The bill calls first for a study of needs and capabilities in the NMI and then for implementation of a pilot program based on the study recommendations.

Sablan

The committee vote was 35 to 11.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) thanked House Agriculture Committee chair Frank Lucas (R–OK) and Ranking Member Colin Peterson (D–MN) for including the money in the bipartisan farm bill they drafted.

"I am very grateful to Chairman Lucas and Ranking Member Peterson for deciding that it is time to bring the Northern Marianas into the national food stamp program," said Sablan, who is a member of the Agriculture Committee. "This bipartisan agreement that people in the NMI need higher benefits and a better managed program is something I have worked hard for since being elected to Congress.

See FOOD STAMP on Page 4

Saipan Air files $50M suit vs Swift Air execs

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Air Inc. filed yesterday a $50-million racketeering lawsuit against four officials of its supposed partner, Swift Air LLC, for allegedly conspiring to obtain money and other

See SWIFT on Page 4

Visit us online @ www.saipantribune.com

OPINION METER
This week's poll:
Should the optional services being provided to Medicaid beneficiaries be eliminated?
Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

WORLD

The Syrian ambassador to Iraq has defected. ➤ PAGE 20

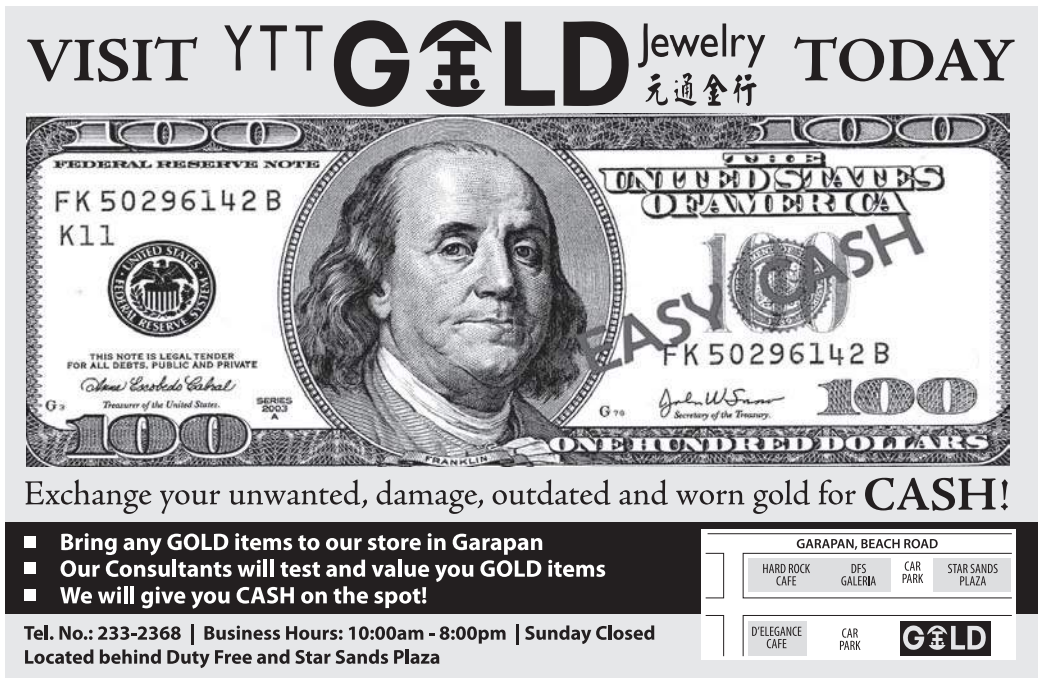
OFFBEAT

A couple makes it their quest to visit Disneyland every day this year. ➤ PAGE 21

LIFE & STYLE

Disgraced lobbyist Jack Abramoff has a new talk radio show. ➤ PAGE 24

Local


VISIT YTT GOLD Jewelry 元通金行 TODAY
FEDERAL RESERVE NOTE
FK 50296142 B
K11
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
100
CASH
FK 50296142 B
THIS NOTE IS LEGAL TENDER FOR ALL DEBTS, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE
SERIES 2003 A
ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS
Exchange your unwanted, damage, outdated and worn gold for CASH!
Bring any GOLD items to our store in Garapan
Our Consultants will test and value you GOLD items
We will give you CASH on the spot!
Tel. No.: 233-2368 | Business Hours: 10:00am - 8:00pm | Sunday Closed
Located behind Duty Free and Star Sands Plaza
GARAPAN, BEACH ROAD
HARD ROCK CAFE
DFS GALERIA
CAR PARK
STAR SANDS PLAZA
D'ELEGANCE CAFE
CAR PARK
GOLD

Lawyer suspended for abandoning her client

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
Ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court yesterday suspended indefinitely from practicing law in the CNMI courts attorney Stephanie DLG. Flores for abandoning a criminal case despite a $15,000 retainer already paid by a defendant.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman said the suspension will be lifted if Flores return the $15,000 fee and submit an accounting of the time spent, expenses, and the total billing for services rendered, if any.

Wiseman required Flores to, among other conditions, take and pass the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination and pay any costs for the prosecution of this case.

According to court records, Eloisa L. San Nicolas retained Flores in June 2006 to represent her husband, Ramon C. San Nicolas, in a criminal case in which he was charged with sexual assault of a minor.

Eloisa L. San Nicolas paid Flores $15,000 as the lawyer asked.

Flores, however, failed to appear for one or more hearings in the case.

At one of the hearings, Wiseman removed Flores from the case when it became apparent she was not communicating with her client and moved to Guam without any notice to the court or to her client.

A disciplinary complaint was filed in court. Flores did not appear at the hearing, prompting the court to issue a default judgment.

The default judgment hearing was held on June 28, 2012. Flores did not appear.

In his ruling issued yesterday, Wiseman determined that Flores' conduct violated the ABA Model Rule of Professional Conduct Rule in that she failed to provide competent representation and abandoned the case with no explanation to her client nor to the court.

Wiseman said that Flores was not reasonably diligent in representing her client in that she failed to spend sufficient time with the defendant to learn enough about the case, and also failed to explain the applicable law and other options to the client.

"The court believes that the respondent's misconduct has resulted in serious injuries to the legal profession, her clients, the public, and the legal system in general through a disparagement of the administration of justice," Wiseman said.

The Supreme Court of Guam also suspended Flores a few months ago from the practice of law in Guam for similar violations.

Senate holds off vote on POB bill

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate held off voting yesterday on a House legislative initiative that could pave the way for floating millions of dollars in bonds to help pay the government's more than $320 million outstanding debt to the beleaguered NMI Retirement Fund. Senators referred the measure to a committee instead.

This comes barely a month before the Aug. 8 deadline to submit legislative initiatives to the Commonwealth Election Commission, for it to be placed on the Nov. 6 ballot.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) asked the Special Committee on Retirement Fund Issues chaired by Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) to expedite action on the initiative so it can be voted on during the next session.

If House Legislative Initiative 17-5 passes the Senate, the pension obligation bond initiative will be placed on the Nov. 6 ballot.

HLI 17-5 seeks to add a new Section 10 to Article 10 of the NMI Constitution to authorize the CNMI to issue pension obligation bonds.

At the same time, the Senate also postponed acting on a motion to override the governor's veto of a revised version of a foreign corporation tax bill after senators raised concerns on the legislation.

"The Senate shouldn't act on this until we see the action of the House, since this is a House bill," said Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan).

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) asked Senate legal counsel Antonette Villagomez to work with House legal counsel John Cool and assistant attorney general Jim Stump in addressing senators' concerns on the bill before the Senate could entertain it.

Cool was at the Senate session to answer senators' concerns on the bill. Reyes, for example, asked about the consequences if the veto was overridden when lawmakers are later convinced that the governor was correct in vetoing the bill.

The revised bill was vetoed for the same reasons the first version was vetoed the first time around, and that was over violations of both the Covenant between the CNMI and the United States and the U.S. tax laws in the NMI Territorial Income Tax.

Rep. Ray Basa's (Cov-Saipan) House Bill 17-288 seeks to create a tax rate for foreign corporations earning income from outside of the CNMI. It encourages foreign persons to establish a company in the CNMI and thereby shift their income to the Commonwealth and pay a lower tax on their income from foreign operations.

In vetoing the bill, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said that HB 17-288, the foreign corporation tax bill, has an admirable goal of encouraging foreign corporations to conduct business in the CNMI. But because it violates section 601 of the Covenant and Section 861-865 of the NMTIT, the governor said he must veto the bill.

'Numbers errors' force House to hold off vote on budget bill

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Government agency representatives crowded the House of Representatives chamber yesterday afternoon ready to voice their concerns on a proposed $114-million budget package for fiscal year 2013, but the House announced that it is holding off voting on the bill until they address numbers and other technical errors.

House Ways and Means Committee chair Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan), author of the budget bill, said it is necessary to hold off any action on House Bill 17-313 "to make some corrections" to errors pointed out by the Office of Management Budget yesterday.

Vicky Villagomez, the governor's special adviser on management and budget, confirmed in a brief phone interview that there were "errors in the calculations" of the House leadership.

"Those were minor corrections. The figures will still add up to $114 million," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Other members also said the budget bill tried to tinker with Compact Impact money to make up for cuts made to certain agencies' budgets.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said last night that the Senate will immediately work on the budget bill once the House passes and transmit it to them.

"It shouldn't take long for the Senate to work on the budget. We are just waiting for it to go to us," Manglona said.

Manglona pointed out that the Senate does not have its own version of the budget bill.

Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) asked for her colleagues' cooperation when the House budget bill goes to the Senate.

HB 17-313 slashes Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's budget for many programs and agencies, including those for the Marianas Visitors Authority, Public School System, Northern Marianas College, Tinian, Medicaid, and the Medical Referral Program but increased the Legislature's budget by $966,000.

The administration is lifting the 16-hour work cuts in fiscal year 2013, and Basa said the House also looks at restoring paid holidays.

House minority leader Joe Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) said the bill should be referred to the Ways and Means Committee for further deliberation.

He also asked Ogumoro whether there will be a committee report on the bill. Ogumoro said there will be none, but the bill will remain on calendar for action in the next session.

Some members of the minority bloc were relieved that the budget bill was not voted on yesterday as the leadership had planned. However, correcting its technical errors would mean additional changes that may not be readily shared with the minority.

Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan), for example, said he wants to ask why the leadership cut the MVA's budget by $550,000, from the governor's budget submission of $2.125 million to $1.575 million in the budget bill.

All other agencies received a much lower budget under the House leadership budget bill compared to the governor's submission.

Under the governor's revised budget, the total identified budgetary resources for 2013 is $133.641 million. Of this amount, $114.320 million is available for appropriation.

Ex-policewoman allegedly assaults father's wife

Police arrested a former policewoman who allegedly assaulted the current wife of her father at a residence in Dandan Wednesday night.

Jasmine M. King was taken to the Superior Court yesterday on charges of assault and battery and disturbing the peace.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho found probable cause to continue to detain King on those charges.

Camacho imposed a $1,250 cash bail following the court-adopted bail schedule.

King was seen crying after the hearing.

Saipan Tribune learned that King posted bail and was subsequently released.

A police officer testified in court that according to the victim, King pushed and repeatedly punched her. The officer did not indicate the reason for the assault.

When King's father tried to stop her, King's common-law husband allegedly punched the father then fled the scene.

The father was taken to the Commonwealth Health Center due to a dislocated left shoulder. As of press time, police had yet to find King's common-law husband, also a former police officer. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Tween shop
for girls ages
8 to 12!
GIRL TALK STORE HOURS: Mon to Sat: 10am to 8pm
Sun: 11am to 5pm • Beach Road, Garapan
Tel: 233-8050
Girl Talk
Like us on Facebook

i'm lovin' it
$5.99
Local Deluxe
Breakfast
Platter
Snack Size
$1.99
Regular Size
$2.99
Shareable Size
$6.99
Regular Chicken McBites
Extra Value Meal
Chicken McBites, Juicy bites made with chicken breast meat. Imagine the poppabilities.
$4.99
PROMOS ARE FOR LIMITED TIME ONLY!
STORE HOURS: Chalan Pale Arnold Road: 6:30AM to 10:00PM • Garapan Express: OPEN 24 HRS. DAILY (24/7)
Chalan Pale Arnold Road 235-8577 • Garapan Express 233-8577 • Office Tel. 235-8761 - Fax. 235-8760 • E-mail: mcdonalds@pticom.com

FOOD STAMP

From Page 1

"This also means additional federal money coming into our economy to help business and create jobs," Sablan added.

The "farm bill," 500-plus pages of legislation governing U.S. agriculture and nutritional assistance policy, is renewed and revised every five years in Congress.

Even though this year's bill is focused overall on cutting $16.5 billion from the national Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, Lucas and Peterson decided to add $33 million for Sablan's food stamp program.

Study addresses local officials' worries

The bill the Agriculture Committee voted for yesterday authorizes a study of the capabilities of the Commonwealth government to operate SNAP. The study will also look for alternative program models tailored to the Northern Marianas.

"The Commonwealth government has been very resistant to changing from the current block grant for food stamps to the national program," Sablan said. "Even though SNAP means increased benefits, more money in the local economy, and higher tax revenues, local officials say they don't want it. So, what the two-year study will do is look at the reasons for all the resistance."

Commonwealth officials have expressed concern about who would be eligible, whether there could be an electronic benefits system to prevent fraud, how work requirements could be put in place to avoid becoming a "welfare state," and what the local share of administrative costs can be.

The U.S. Agriculture Department will conduct the study using $2 million provided in the farm bill.

"All of these concerns will be examined," Sablan explained. "The result will be recommendations for a pilot program that fits the needs and circumstances of the Northern Marianas.

"Then beginning Oct. 1, 2014, we will have $13.5 million to set up the necessary infrastructure and begin raising benefits. Another $17 million will be available for 2016 and 2017. At that point we can decide what to do next, as a new farm bill is written."

The goal: raise benefits in the NMI

Sablan has focused on inequities in the food stamp program since he began representing the people of the Northern Marianas in Congress. In Guam, which participates in SNAP, a family of four has monthly benefits of $985. In the Northern Marianas a family of four receives less than half as much, $435 per month.

"I have tried living on the Northern Marianas benefit of about $3.64 per day," Sablan said. "It's unhealthy, especially for children whose growing minds and bodies depend on proper nutrition. I think our people should get $8.21 per day like Guam. And if the farm bill becomes law we are going to start moving in that direction."

Commonwealth officials, who have argued against joining SNAP, are only part of the problem. The Department of Agriculture, too, has expressed its doubt that the Commonwealth can manage SNAP.

"The plan of action that Chairman Lucas and Ranking Member Peterson have included in the farm bill really responds to all party's concerns," Sablan said. "The Commonwealth government will have the opportunity to participate in shaping the pilot program. USDA will be assured that the Commonwealth government will be able to handle the new program. And, eventually, the people in the Northern Marianas, who need more help feeding their families, will begin getting the same level of assistance as other Americans enjoy."

The House Agriculture Committee worked until 1am before approving H.R. 6083, the Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act of 2012, or FARRM Act.

Many agriculture programs will expire on Sept. 30, making quick passage by the House now a matter of urgency.

The Senate passed its version of the farm bill in June with a bipartisan vote of 65-35. That bill must be merged with the House bill before a final measure can be sent to the President to sign into law. ***(PR)***

BILL

From Page 1

Dela Cruz said the government didn't even ask or survey employees whether they want to move to the U.S. Social Security system, while Deleon Guerrero said the bill has the effect of "forcing" people to go into Social Security despite a contractual obligation under the Fund's plans. Dela Cruz hopes lawmakers won't regret passing the bill.

Three members were absent, including Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) who left the House chamber long before the voting on the bill came. Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) and Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) were off-island.

The 14 others voted "yes," including acting House Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan), the main author of the bill.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, a day before leaving for a two-week official trip to the U.S., urged the Legislature to swiftly pass the bill which he said will effectively transfer members of the Fund's defined benefit and defined contribution plans to the U.S. Social Security program.

Ogumoro, during the House session, urged her colleagues to vote favorably so that the Fitial administration's plan to prolong the lifespan of the Fund will move forward.

The fiscal year 2013 budget is also premised on the transitioning into the U.S. Social Security system by Oct. 1, 2012, the start of fiscal year 2013.

Ogumoro said that acting governor Eloy S. Inos will meet with lawmakers next week to discuss the second piece of legislation that the administration is proposing. The governor said that bill would "reform" the retirement fund plan "to protect the benefits of our retirees and to effectively transfer our active employees to the Social Security program."

The NMI Retirement Fund is under a state of emergency, but the Senate adopted a resolution amending the executive order on the Fund emergency. The House has since been sitting on the Senate resolution.

SWIFT

From Page 1

property from the company.

Saipan Air is suing Donald A. Stukes, Jeffrey Conry, Hank Tobert, Boris Van Lier, and 10 unnamed persons for fraud, violations of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization Act, and civil conspiracy.

Saipan Air asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to hold the defendants liable to pay the company $50 million in punitive damages, plus unspecified amounts in restitution, special damages, attorney's fees, and court costs.

Steven P. Pixley, counsel for Saipan Air, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that Swift Air was not named in the lawsuit because of the bankruptcy petition it filed, preventing it from being sued. Pixley said they are suing these persons in their individual capacities.

Swift Air LLC filed for bankruptcy protection on June 27, 2012.

Pixley said they investigated and interviewed a number of people and "we believe that these individuals committed acts of fraud against Saipan Air."

"We believe we have a case against them for fraud and violations of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization Act, and civil conspiracy," he added.

Pixley said that based on their background investigation, they learned that these individuals had been involved with multiple airlines for the last two years.

"Direct Air is one of the airlines, Sky King and another airline…and the same pattern of conduct…that these guys acquire ownership interest and then basically used the money from the airlines and ended up filing for bankruptcy," Pixley said.

"Just a pattern of conduct and we think that it's very serious that they committed criminal acts. We're going after them," he added.

Pixley said that, beginning Dec. 20, 2012, the defendants used Swift Air as a mere sham and shell to defraud Saipan Air and otherwise operated this entity as their alter ego.

Since gaining a U.S. carrier is a lengthy process, Saipan Air planned to go into service using a wet lease of ACMI (aircraft, crew, maintenance, and insurance) agreement with an existing certified part-121 carrier.

"This type of arrangement is common practice for start-up airlines. While such leases are expensive, they permit airlines to quickly start and establish themselves while going through the steps to become part-121 carriers themselves," Pixley explained.

On Dec. 12, 2011, Conry contacted Adam Ferguson, chief operating officer of Saipan Air, and disclosed that Swift Air was being purchased by a group of investors under the name Avondale Ventures headed by Tobert.

Conry allegedly falsely represented that Avondale had a $70 million investor portfolio and that Avondale would be the primary source of investment for Swift Air.

Conry did not disclose to Saipan Air that Stukes was affiliated with Avondale and that he had an ownership interest in Swift Air. Conry allegedly falsely told Ferguson that he did not know Stukes.

Pixley said that Conry and Stukes had been involved in other airline ventures together.

On Dec. 13, 2011, Conry told Ferguson that Lier, chief operating officer of Dynamic Air, was leaving Dynamic Air to join Swift Air.

Pixley said that Saipan Air had previously communicated with Dynamic Air about its business plan to lease aircraft and fly to Japan and China.

Pixley said that Lier provided information to Conry relating to Saipan Air's program.

On Jan. 11, 2012, Lier, now vice president and chief operating officer of Swift Air, gave a presentation on Saipan on behalf of Swift Air. Lier represented that Swift Air could deliver the aircraft. At the time of this presentation, Saipan Air was negotiating with various other prospective carriers.

Based on the defendants' representations, Saipan Air decided to initiate negotiations with Swift Air as a backup on March 15, 2012.

On March 16, 2012, Lier and Conry presented to Ferguson that they could meet Saipan Air's launch date of July 1, 2012.

Ferguson traveled to Arizona on March 21, 2012, where he met with Conry and Lier. At the meeting, the defendants showed Ferguson financial statements indicating that Swift Air had virtually no debt.

Pixley said that Saipan Air later learned about Swift Air's $1.6 million liability to the U.S. Internal Revenue Agency.

The defendants further represented that Avondale had $70 million in assets and that these funds would be used to support Saipan Air's program.

On March 27, 2012, Conry initiated a conference call with Ferguson and Jeremy Cape, director of sales for International Lease Finance Corp., to ensure that the aircraft were locked up through a letter of intent.

Pixley said it was clearly understood that $700,000 was required to be paid to IFLC to ensure that the aircraft were secured for Saipan Air's business operations.

On March 29, 2012, Lier began pressuring Saipan Air to submit a security deposit. Lier sent an email to Ferguson stating that he had not slept in two nights and that it was imperative that Saipan Air sign the agreement and pay the deposit for the aircraft.

Lier telephoned Ferguson several times between March 29 to April 6, 2012.

On April 6, 2012, Lier sent an email to Ferguson stating that Swift Air "have roughly 1.2MM (sic) in deposits to make, and I need to have your deposit before I am allowed to fund the aircraft deposits and other down payments."

Lier further stated that they urgently needed Saipan Air's deposit in order to secure the aircraft from ILFC.

Lier allegedly lied to Ferguson that Saipan Air would lose the aircraft to another carrier unless the funds were wired immediately.

On April 6, 2012, Saipan Air entered into a Aircraft ACMI Charter Agreement with Swift Air relating to the charter of two Boeing 757-200 aircraft and one Boeing 737-400 aircraft.

The aircraft were to be delivered to Saipan Air on or before July 1, 2012, to transport tourists from various locations in Japan and China to and from the CNMI.

Pixley said at the time the agreement was executed, the defendants knew that Swift Air could not or would not perform the agreement.

On April 9, 2012, relying on the defendants' representations, Saipan Air wired a $900,000 "security deposit" to Swift Air from the Bank of Hawaii on Saipan to a Swift Air account at the U.S. Bank of Arizona.

The defendants expressly represented that $700,000 from this wire transfer would be paid to ILFC to secure the aircraft. The remaining $200,000 was to be used by Swift Air to pay for manuals, pilot flight training, and other Saipan Air program matters.

Saipan Air later learned on May 18, 2012, that the defendants allegedly converted and misappropriated the funds. Pixley said the defendants did not submit the $700,000 deposit to ILFC.

On May 23, 2012, Conry asked Saipan Air to provide a letter of credit in the amount of $524,000 to ILFC in order to ensure that the aircraft would be available for the July 1, 2012, launch date.

The defendants represented that they were still on track for the July 1 launch date, but that they required additional funding in the amount of $376,000 to ensure that the aircraft were fully certified and available for Saipan Air operations.

A second wire transfer in the amount of $376,00 was sent to Swift Air on May 29, 2012.

On May 27, 2012, Conry called Ferguson several times and represented that Swift Air urgently needed a bridge loan of $1.5 million in order to perform their obligations under the agreement. Pixley said negotiations relating to this bridge loan continued until June 19, 2012.

On June 20, 2012, Ferguson received an email from Conry stating that Swift Air had located a new investor [Reggie Fowler] who could provide financing to ensure Swift Air's performance of the Saipan Air program.

The proposal, however, was conditioned upon Saipan Air's agreement that the defendants could keep the $1.276 million security deposits and Saipan Air would further relieve the defendants of further performance under the contract.

Stukes, during negotiations relating to the bridge loan, later told Saipan Air to ignore Conry's proposal.

Pixley said that, on June 24, 2012, the defendants posted on an Internet Airline Pilot Forum that Swift Air "will not be providing lift for Saipan Air's operations due to cancellation of the contract by [Saipan Air]."

On June 24, 2012, Saipan Air received a letter from Lier dated June 21, 2012, stating that "Swift hereby provides notice to SAI that the agreement is hereby terminated and canceled without further notice or effect."

Pixley said the pretext of this "termination" was alleged delays in Federal Aviation Administration certifications.

"These delays were caused by the actions and omissions of the defendants," Pixley said.

On June 27, 2012, Swift Air filed for bankruptcy protection.

Pixley said that Saipan Air incurred substantial damages arising from the acts and omissions of the defendants.

These damages, the lawyer said, include funds paid to the defendants, marketing efforts in Japan and China, hiring of employees, purchase of supplies, renovation of housing facilities for personnel, and ticket sales in Japan and China.

Saipan Air was compelled to cease all its business operations on June 29, 2012.

CDA has $35.6M in loan receivables

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Development Authority has a total of $35.696 million in collectibles from its borrowers as of yesterday.

CDA comptroller Danny Militante disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that the agency's Development Corporation Division loan program has a total of 60 borrowers on Saipan, Tinian, and Rita.

Of the total amount of receivables, $11.9 million are owed by "active" loan members—those who are paying under the original loan term agreement, which is assigned a 7-percent interest, while $8.254 million are to be collected from members under the CDA's debt relief program.

The rest of the loans are classified as small business loans.

The debt relief program was designed to help borrowers settle their loans by restructuring the term agreement, assigned at only 2 percent interest.

Militante said that many borrowers have asked CDA to be included in this program due to their inability to pay their obligations. He blamed these borrowers' delinquency on the economic difficulty that continues to hamper businesses.

He assured that CDA continues to aggressively collect on delinquent borrowers and has been consistent in making follow-ups on each and every one.

CDA also has receivables from court judgments in favor of the agency, amounting to $11.6 million, Militante said.

CDA loan manager Oscar Camacho disclosed the agency's over $30 million receivables during Wednesday's meeting of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce at Kanoa Resort in Susupe.

Camacho stated in that meeting that many delinquent borrowers were placed under the agency's debt relief program to help them.

He also announced that CDA has a list of foreclosed properties that are up for sale. Based on the agency's website, it is seeking interested buyers, bids, and proposals for purchase or lease of 20 properties.

There is a pending bill at the Legislature, House Bill 17-301, which proposes to suspend CDA loan payments for two years. The legislation was introduced in consideration of the poor economic conditions affecting businesses and the alarming high rate of loan defaults of CDA.

Both Militante and Camacho have opposed the bill, saying it will not only threaten the agency's existing loans but would also put a moratorium on new loans for two years if no payments to previous loans are received.

CDA is an autonomous agency created by law to assist the public by offering commercial loans to qualified borrowers. It also serves as the government's economic development arm and financial adviser.

PHP Pharmacy
DANDAN ONLY!
OVER STOCK INVENTORY
BLOW OUT SALE
25-50-75% OFF
All OTC Items
SALE JULY 10-20, 2012 SALE
Tel.: 235-6170/74

PURE SPA
Aroma Salon • Ethnic Style • Beauty $ Massage
Visit us for a fashionable way of relaxation
Resident Special
1-hour Massage and Spa as low as $20.00
(Special rate only before 6:00PM)
Also Available:
$100 Certificate for 6 visits
KiRa KiRa Nail
$10 Nail Care with design
FIESTA RESORT& SPA HYATT REGENCY
SUBWAY PURE SPA KiRa KiRa Nail PASEO DE MARIANAS GARAPAN SQUARE
BEACH ROAD
FOR RESERVATION & INFORMATION
Call: (670) 483-7119 • (670) 233-1200
Open Daily: 11:00 am to 2:00 am
Email: amypurespa7119@gmail.com • Website: www.saipanpurespa.com

Bobby Cadillacs of Saipan
PIZZA
We've Been Making Pizza On Saipan Since 1989
Buy a Large - Get a FREE Medium (single topping)
No Limit
Try Our Delicious Burgers - Reubens - Chicken & Salads
Beach Road - Garapan
234-3976

Pay as you surf with
MOBILE broadband PREPAID
Powered by Superior Coverage & Reliablity.
With Mobile Broadband Prepaid you can surf the Internet wherever you go with no contracts or monthly fees.
It's affordable at only $2 per hour of UNLIMITED internet access. Update Facebook, watch YouTube, shop Amazon – You're in control. You only pay for what you use!
$10 Island Wide Internet Service
Prepaid internet that's as mobile as you are.
INCLUDES UM175 USB MODEM PLUS FREE $10 LOAD
Starter Kits Available at all IT&E Locations & Shell Stations
Some conditions apply. While supplies last. Prepaid load expires 14 days after initial use.
IT&E Life in Motion
682-4ITE (4483)
www.ite.net
customercare@itehq.net
Tinian: 433-0210 • Rota: 532-3599 • Guam: 671-922-4ITE (4483)
Chalan LauLau Customer Care Ofc. • Wireless Express Center (TSL Plaza)

CUC refuses to return $800K to customers despite canceled loan

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. officials told members of a Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation panel yesterday that the estimated $800,000 they collected from customers since July 2011 to help repay a $10-million loan won't be returned and will be used instead for other CUC needs. Lawmakers are insisting that the money be given back to customers since it was collected for repayment of a loan that did not materialize.

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), chairman of the delegation's Public Utilities and Infrastructure Commission, and other panel members took turns asking CUC to return the money.

CUC chief financial officer Charles Warren told the panel that the Public Utilities Commission last year authorized the collection of additional charges from customers and CUC would continue collecting until PUC says they should stop doing so.

» Saipan lawmakers insist on reimbursement

Acting CUC executive director Alan Fletcher said it's no longer about debt servicing anymore but about addressing CUC's needs to ensure that customers get power, water, and wastewater services.

CUC started billing customers on June 7, 2011, in anticipation of the loan, but actual collection started at a later date.

Warren said that CUC has so far billed $929,000 but actual collection is about $800,000.

Rep. Joe Palacios (R-Saipan) said he understands CUC's needs but the money was collected from customers specifically for debt service and not for anything else.

Palacios pointed out that CUC recently bought new vehicles despite reporting financial problems.

But Fletcher said CUC had been using old and decrepit vehicles that cost the agency some quarter of a million every year just to maintain and fix so CUC decided to buy new one. He also said CUC cannot use grant money for other things if they're meant to buy vehicles, for example.

When Dela Cruz asked whether CUC still needs the $10 million loan, Warren said, "Yes."

The committee chair said that Independence Bank, which has been receiving financial information from CUC up until early this year, noted that CUC has the capability to repay the loan and has been in fact collecting from customers to help repay that loan.

Fletcher said that CUC still needs the loan but CUC's finances are not strong enough to service that loan. Among other things, CUC has been deferring maintenance on a lot of its equipment.

The $10-million loan was supposed to be guaranteed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The money was supposed to be used by CUC to address federal stipulated orders.

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos last week said his understanding was that USDA pulled the plug on the $10 million loan, but Independence Bank said it was the CNMI Office of the Attorney General that did it.

The committee will call for another meeting with CUC. Among other things, they want to know who made the decision to back out of the loan.

CUC is under a state of emergency because of financial, procurement, and hiring crises, among other things. It is now again under the direct control of the Executive Branch.

Fashion Clicks
QUALITY CLOTHING FOR LESS
summer sale
SAVE 20-50% OFF
ON SELECTED ITEMS
PLUS SIZE AVAILABLE
Island Apparel Building, Puerto Rico, Lower Base
OPENS: Monday - Friday @ 9:00 am - 6:00 pm • Saturday @ 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm
MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ARE ACCEPTED
Tel.: 288-3441/2/3

MCS board OKs extra-curricular credit policy

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A new policy to allow extra-curricular activities as possible credit for junior and high school transcripts was adopted by the board of directors of Mount Carmel School.

In a joint statement yesterday, MCS board chair Joseph L.G. Taijeron and newly appointed president Galvin Deleon Guerrero said the school leadership will now develop criteria and processes for articulating credit acceptance that ensures such extra-curricular activities meet curriculum standards and instructional hours.

"It only makes sense when you consider how much time and energy students invest in activities like Mock Trial, We the People, Theatre Club, forensic competition, and the numerous athletic programs in and out of the school," said Taijeron, adding that in many cases students don't just participate in extra-curricular activities; they excel in local, regional, and national competitions.

"We should give them credit where credit is due—including on their transcripts," added Taijeron.

Deleon Guerrero welcomed the board's decision and assured that the school will adapt curricular standards to the new policy.

"We fully intend to apply the same rigor for learning to extra-curricular activities as we do to our academic courses. We must do all that we can to support and validate student achievement and there is no doubt that a well-developed extra-curricular program contributes to student success," Deleon Guerrero said.

Educational research has demonstrated the positive impact extra-curricular activities have on student achievement. In a longitudinal study of public high school seniors, the National Center for Education Statistics reported that extracurricular participation was positively associated with consistent attendance, academic achievement, and aspirations for continuing education beyond high school.

According to the center's observation, during the first semester of a students' senior year, participants reported better attendance than their non-participating classmates—half of them had no unexcused absences from school and half had never skipped a class, compared to one-third and two-fifths of non-participants, respectively. It added that students who participated were three times as likely to perform in the top quartile on a composite math and reading assessment compared to non-participants.

Participants were also more likely than non-participants to aspire for higher education: two-thirds of participants expected to complete at least a bachelor's degree while about half of non-participants expected to do so.

JOETEN ENTERPRISES, INC.

CUSTOMER APPRECIATION SALE!

SATURDAY
JULY 14 , 2012

Find us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/joetenstore

NEW ARRIVALS - NEW ARRIVALS - NEW ARRIVALS - NEW ARRIVALS - NEW ARRIVALS

Chicken Thigh Quarter 22lbs. $17.99

Chuckwagon Hotdogs 12oz. 99¢

Hoffy Delite Bacon 16oz. $2.99

Gusto Heartland Chopped Ham 5lbs. $8.99

Pike Mackerel $1.69 /Lb.

Diamond G Calrose Rice Limit 1 $26.99

ACE of Diamonds Tuna 7oz. limit 1 case $1.29

Kikkoman Soy Sauce 1.6 Liters Limit 6 $3.99

Any Power Butane Gas 4 Pack $3.19

Bounty White Paper Towel 1 Roll $1.39

Sporting Goods 25% off

New Eco-Friendly Bags and Water Bottles Available!

Cosmetics & Fragrances 15% off

Best Buy

School Supplies 25% off

Bicycles and Tricycles 25% off

Best

Toys and Games 20% off

25% OFF
Mens Polo Shirts and Aloha Shirts
Mens Jeans and Shorts
Mens Caps and Beanies
Mens Ties and Suspenders
Ladies Blouses
Ladies Skirts and Shorts
Ladies Bras and Panties
Boys Shirts
Girls Shorts, Skirts and Blouses
Infant Rompers and Dresses
Handbags and Wallets

20% OFF
Watches (Any Selection)
Footwear

Picture Frames 25% off

Housewares 25% off

Rugs and Linens 25% off

Yardage 30% off

U.S POTATO 79¢ /Lb.

U.S EXTRA LARGE WHITE EGGS $2.25 /Dz..

U.S. APPLE RED CELLO BAG 3LB. $2.99 /Bg.

U.S. JUMBO CARROTS 85¢ /Lb.

U.S. ORANGE 99¢ /Lb.

U.S. PINEAPPLE $1.25 /Lb.

Aiko's SNACK BAR
Lunch available
Monday thru Saturday
from 10:30 a m to 2:00 p m
Please call 234-6445 for daily specials!

Joeten Shopping Center
P.O. Box 500137 Saipan, MP 96950 - Tel. 234-6446/48 Fax. 234-5876
Visit our 4-Branches: Joeten Susupe, Garapan, Dandan and Kagman
We accept major credit cards
We welcome Foodstamps
We reserve the right to limit quantities

We are not responsible for any typographical or printing error

Three TAP grants awarded to the CNMI

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Marianas Visitors Authority, Northern Marianas Humanities Council, and CNMI Museum of History and Culture have been awarded some $95,000 in Technical Assistance Program grants by the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs.

"This is great news for our community at a time when we continue to face economic difficulties," said Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP). "The grants will directly support our all-important tourism industry and help preserve culturally and historically significant materials and artifacts, which are of value to all of us and very much of interest to our visitors."

Sablan expressed his appreciation to Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular Areas Anthony M. Babauta for recognizing the significance of the three grant proposals to the economic development of the Commonwealth and for signing off on the awards.

Only recently have local nonprofits been able to apply for TAP grants directly. Previously, the technical assistance projects have needed the blessing of the Commonwealth government.

Over the past year, Sablan has encouraged a number of local organizations to submit TAP grant applications through the Internet-based system and has communicated his support for the projects to Babauta.

"I congratulate Perry Tenorio and Marian Aldan-Pierce and the MVA staff, David J. Attao, Scott Russell and everyone at the Humanities Council, and Robert Hunter and the Museum crew for their successful efforts," Sablan said. "Everyone deserves recognition."

The Marianas Visitors Authority was awarded $74,842 for a variety of efforts both in the CNMI and abroad to bolster tourism. The funds will help MVA establish beautification projects on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The grant will also support a MY WAVE Tourism Summit for students, a "Tourism Tuesday" newspaper column to raise community awareness of the importance of tourism, and allow MVA to participate in the annual Japan Association of Travel Agents Travel Fair.

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council was granted $10,000 to support its efforts to establish a Garapan Heritage Trail. Currently, the Council is identifying and mapping historically significant sites in the Garapan area, compiling and translating significant facts, and developing a related website. The TAP grant will fund the printing of maps in five languages, which will allow tourists to take self-guided tours of the historical sites in Garapan the Humanities Council has identified.

The Northern Mariana Islands Museum of History and Culture received nearly $9,777, which will allow representatives from the Museum, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, and the CNMI Archives to attend the American Association of State and Local History's "Connecting to Collections" conference and workshops. This will improve management of collections, further facilitate collaborative efforts between the three entities in the development of a shared database of historic and culturally relevant materials in the NMI, and enhance the professional capacity of these institutions.

"Federal grant dollars are increasingly scare and competition is great," Sablan observed. "Assistant Secretary Babauta's decision to fund these grant applications is a win for our entire community and testimony to the efforts and skills of the people at MVA, the Humanities Council, and the Museum."

The OIA Technical Assistance program continues to be a vital component of overall federal financial support for the NMI, allowing important projects undertaken by local community groups to move forward even though local funding is unavailable.

Sablan has put an emphasis on building local capacity to acquire federal grants. Earlier this year he sponsored a week-long grants workshop attended by over 100 local grant writers and managers in partnership with the Northern Marianas College and the Department of the Interior.

The congressional office in the Northern Marianas has become a hub for information about grant opportunities. And Sablan's weekly e-Kilili newsletter and congressional website (http://sablan.house.gov/serving-you/grants-jobs) post grant funding opportunities available to individuals and community groups in the NMI.

To subscribe to the free weekly e-Kilili go to http://sablan.house.gov/contact-me/newsletter. ***(PR)***

SPIKES & CHAINS

El Drako Kennels' Spikes & Chains 2012 last weekend was a huge success. American Bullies and all kinds of breeds were present and other kennels also participated, including 670 Blue Kennels, Onio Bulls, Marianas Pacifiku Kennels, Kulan Zamu Kennel, Figo Kennel, and Magalahi Bully Camp. Filmoro Kennels got the Best of Show. The next show will be in December 2012 to level up the points that winners received. El Drako Kennels thanks all sponsors: IT&E, TSL Foundation, Budweiser, Coca-Cola, Power 99, Tha Trapp, Boarderline, PIC, Calvo's Insurance, Godfather's Bar, Na Chan Chi Café, and Mr. Nemie.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Democratic Party extends deadline for filing of candidacy

The Democratic Party of the Northern Marianas has extended the deadline to file letters of intent of candidacy to run for any elected office in the 2012 election. Any person wishing to run under the Democratic Party of the Northern Marianas is encouraged to file with the party his or her letter of candidacy. For more information contact the Central Executive Committee at 235-6520. ***(PR)***

Sen. Pete Reyes on *Marianas Agupa*

This Saturday, July 13, 2012, *Marianas Agupa* will feature Sen. Pete Reyes of the 17th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. The show is from 9am to 11:00am on Magic 100.3 FM. Listeners on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota and those listening via streaming are encouraged to call in and ask questions during the show (direct to studio at 234-5929 or use *Marianas Agupa*'s Facebook Account via instant messaging).

The Chamorro radio talk show program is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona and features reports by former mayor Joseph S. Inos, Rota correspondent Thomas D. Mendiola, Tinian correspondent David M. Cing, and a special segment called Hafa Mohon with Juanita Mendiola. Simultaneous Internet streaming via www.magic100radio.com will be available. ***(PR)***

Free Army Reserve Enrichment Camp

The Army Reserve's Child, Youth and School Services will host a free Youth Enrichment Camp on July 23-27 2012, at Marianas Trekking for children ages 4-12. For more information contact Travis Mckinney at (808) 438-1600 Ext. 3374 or email travis.mckinney@us.army.mil, or Chris Nelson at 323-8735. ***(PR)***

Free films every Friday at the park

The American Memorial Park presents family-friendly films twice a day for free every Friday, at 2pm and 6pm, in the Visitors Center auditorium.

- July 13: *Up* (2pm and 6pm)
- July 20: *Wall-E* (2pm and 6pm)
- July 27: *Meet The Robinsons* (2pm and 6pm)
- Aug. 3: *Ice Age* (2pm)
- Aug. 10: *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs* (2pm and 6pm)
- Aug. 17: *Rio* (2pm and 6pm)

The regularly scheduled First Friday Films at 6:30pm will continue. ***(AMP)***

Free business workshop

The CNMI Small Business Development Center, in partnership with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, presents the free workshop "How to market your business" on July 13, 2012, from 9am to 11am, at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce office on the first floor of the Familia Building in Garapan. Register online at http://pisbdcn.ecenterdirect.com/. Deadline for pre-registration is 12pm, one day before the workshop. For more information contact Linda at 664-3018 or linda@pacificsbdc.com. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 13, 2001

House approves $74M for CIP

A proposed measure appropriating a total of $73.56 million for Capital Improvement Projects now heads to the Senate after the House of Representatives passed the bill during Wednesday's regular session. As adopted by the lower chamber, House Bill 12-374 provides $18.45 million for Rota, $11.94 million for Tinian, and $19.79 million for Saipan and the Northern Islands, totaling $50.19 million. Funding for these projects will come from Commonwealth Development Authority bond proceeds amounting to $24.02 million, bond interest amounting to $1.2 million, and Covenant Section 702 funding in the amount of $24.97 million.

Retention of vocational program at NMC urged

Education officials have expressed opposition to the proposed separation of vocational education from the jurisdiction of the Northern Marianas College during yesterday's public hearing on a legislative initiative proposing to do so. In a letter sent to the House of Representatives' Standing Committee On Education, Kagman Elementary School principal Ignacia T. Demapan said the NMC must continue with its mission and responsibility of providing vocational and technical education, which she says is critical to the development of skills necessary for satisfying careers. "I believe that the underlying foundation for all academic courses should be the relationship of class concepts to practical job application.

July 13, 2003

Aldan backs more funds to promote NMI

House Tourism Committee Chairman Frank Dlg. Aldan is supporting moves to appropriate an additional $800,000 on top of the Marianas Visitors Authority's proposed $7.01 million budget for fiscal year 2004. Aldan said the extra funding would boost MVA's efforts to promote the CNMI as a tourist destination, especially in the wake of reports that other destinations like Singapore, Hawaii and Thailand will be coming out with impressive promotions next year. "MVA is asking for $800,000 more. And according to the Speaker, we should be able to fund that, in addition to their budget," said Aldan. Aldan said the House would have to work out the details on where the additional money will come from.

OIA awards over $1.1M to Guam

The Office of Interior Affairs has awarded more than $1.1 million to Guam comprising four grants that are intended to infuse needed money into the island's recovery effort and to support the operation of the Attorney General's Office. Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior David Cohen turned over the grants to Gov. Felix Camacho Friday. The four grants include a grant of almost $600,000 to jump-start Camacho's economic recovery program, and a grant of $215,000 for the AGO. "Governor Camacho has done a very good job of explaining to us how Interior's funds could be put to good use to help Guam overcome its current financial challenges," said Cohen.

July 13, 2005

New budget needed to avoid deficit in '06

The Senate is asking the House of Representative to fast track the budget process, warning that the absence of a new budget for fiscal year 2006 would result in a deficit of at least $7 million. Sen. Joseph Mendiola, chair of the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs, warned that there may not be a budget passed by September because the House "has not taken any formal discussion" on the proposed $226 million for FY 2006. "I'm very concerned. I'm afraid that we may end up doing a new budget by end of the calendar year. Everybody knows it's a political year, but we owe it to the government to pass a new spending plan," said Mendiola in yesterday's session.

USDE stresses improving teacher quality in CNMI

To achieve academic excellence among children in the CNMI, the U.S. Department of Education stressed several strategies to improve teacher quality, including recruitment processes and continued training. Toward this end, U.S. Department of Education Academic Improvement and Teacher Quality Programs officer Elizabeth Ann Witt held a workshop last month for public school officials from the CNMI and the Pacific region. Public School System Commissioner of Education Rita H. Inos and board member Herman T. Guerrero attended the workshop.

TOHA SUPERMARKET
WEEKEND SALE
FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY

7:00AM - 11:00 PM (MON-SUN) MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED
WE ACCEPT BANK OF GUAM PACIFIC EXPRESS

WE ACCEPT FOOD STAMP

DIAMOND G RICE 50lbs. $28.99

Lotus Rice 50lbs. $25.99

Saipan Ice Water 500ml $5.99 CASE

Betty Crocker Pancake Mix 32oz. $2.99

Ichiban $10.99 CASE

Chicken Leg Quarter $19.99 22lbs / $26.99 33lbs LIMIT

Whole Chicken 30lbs $38.99 LIMIT

Pork Spareribs 20lbs $22.99 LIMIT

Babyribs 10lbs $22.99 LIMIT

Vega Shrimps $5.79 LB. LIMIT

King Chef Vegetable Oil 5gal $31.99

Mega Butane Gas $22.99 CASE

GROCERIES

Ox & Palm Corned Beef $2.99 11.5 OZ.

Spam All Kinds $2.39 EA

Black Label Luncheon $1.79 EA..

Libby's Vienna Sausage 59¢ 5 OZ.

Ace of Diamond and Coco Tuna $1.39 7 OZ.

Beach Cliff Sardines 99¢

Century Tuna 89¢ 7 OZ.

Waioka Tuna 89¢

Armour Treet Luncheon Loaf $1.69

Hormel Chili with Beans $1.69 15 OZ.

Hormel Chili No Beans $1.79 15 OZ.

Kikkoman Soy Sauce $4.19 1.6 L.

Morton Salt 89¢ 450 gm

Vlasic Sliced Dill Pickle $6.49 1 GAL.

Dinty Moore Beef Stew $1.69 15 OZ.

Dinty Moore Meatball Stew $1.69 15 OZ.

Hormel Mary Kitchen Corned Beef Hash $1.99 6.5 OZ.

Campbells Chicken Noodle 89¢ 10 OZ.

Del Monte Spaghetti Sauce (all kinds) $1.39 26.5oz.

Del Monte Whole Corn 99¢ 15 OZ.

Kruataia Coconut Milk 99¢

Kellogg's Tri-pak 58 oz. $13.99

General Mills Tri-pak $8.99

Argo Corn Starch 99¢ 1 LB.

Gold Medal Flour $3.25 37.02 OZ.

Duncan Hines Cake Mix $1.99

DelMonte Ketchup $4.69 2.64 OZ.

Royal Spaghetti Noodle $2.49 1 kg.

Foremost Milk $20.99

White Sugar 2kg $2.79 2 KG.

Pringles (All Kinds) $1.99

Country Lime Lemonade $7.99

Tang Orange $7.99 22 QTS.

Kool-Aid $7.99 34 QTS.

Coffee Mate $7.99 50 OZ.

Folgers Coffee $11.99 33.3 OZ.

Maxwell Coffee Mix $7.99 100CT.

Fresco Vegetable Oil $9.49 1 GAL.

Dragon Vegetable Oil $9.49 1 GAL.

Golden State Vinegar $3.99 2.1 GAL.

Wilkins Water $2.99 6000ML

FAMILY BAG

Stew Chicken	$5.99
Chicken Leg Qtr	$4.99
Chicken Nuggets	$11.99
Turkey Tail	$6.99
Mackerel Fish	$5.99
Pork Hock	$6.99
Pork Adobo	$9.99
Pork Bellies	$11.99
Pork Chop	$11.99
Pork Spareribs	$6.99
Pork Butt Steak	$9.99
Beef Ribeye	$15.99
Beef Stew	$12.99
Beef Shank	$11.99
Beef Feet	$7.99
Beef Shortribs	$15.99
Ox Tail	$15.99

BEVERAGE

Capri Sun $2.99 BOX

Kool-Aid Jammers/ Caprisun $2.99 BOX

Sunkist $6.99 CASE

Rota Water 500 ml. $5.50 CASE

Ruby Kist Orange Juice $3.79 64oz.

Ruby Kist Apple Juice $3.99 64oz.

Pepsi Lite Can $11.99 CASE LIMIT

Jinro Soju $29.99 CASE

Hite Can $16.99 CASE

PRODUCE

Onion 59¢ LB.

Potato 79¢ LB.

Celo Apple $3.99 /BAG

Orange 99¢ LB.

Cabbage 89¢ LB.

Korean Pear $2.99 LB.

Honeydew/ Cantaloupe 99¢ LB.

Garlic $1.25 5 PCS.

Broccoli $1.49 LB.

U.S. X-Large Eggs $2.25 1 DOZ.

FROZEN

Hashbrown $4.59 20PCS. $2.29 10PCS.

Bar S Jumbo Franks $1.19

Millers Sausage $16.99

Bar S Ham $18.99 10LBS.

Bar S Bacon $3.25

Ground Beef $11.99 5LBS.

Chamorro Sausage $4.49 10LBS.

Ground Pork $22.49 10LBS.

Tilapia $1.09 /LB.

Milk Fish $1.49 /LB.

Green Shell Mussels $5.99 2LBS.

Frozen Cut Crab $6.99

Sea Wave Calanari $1.89 16oz.

S.C. Frozen Shrimp $3.59 16oz.

NON-FOOD

Clorox $3.29 96 OZ.

Purex $4.49 50 OZ.

Gain Liquid $6.49 50 OZ. / $10.99 100 OZ.

Gain Powder 120 loads $15.99 50 OZ.

Joy Ultra $1.49 12.5 OZ. / $6.99 90 OZ.

Dawn Dishwashing Soap $8.99 90 oz.

Suave Shampoo & Conditioner 2 for $3.00

Head & Shoulders Shampoo $7.99 23OZ.

Huggies Big $18.99 BOX

Luvs Big $17.99 BOX

Bounty Paper Towel $19.99 15 Rolls

Charmin Ultra Strong Tissue $6.99 24 Rolls

Charmin Basic Toilet paper $8.29 12ROLLS / $14.99 24ROLLS

Foam Plates $3.29 50 CT / $7.99 125 CT

WESTERN UNION
moving money for better
Now Available at PHONE STORE
Business Hours:
Monday-Saturday 10am - 8pm
Sunday 11am - 5pm
Tel. 234-6666
We're located in Chalan Kanoa across Moon Night

Located in San Antonio • Tel. No. 234-0826

ONE STOP SHOP WITH THE LOWEST PRICES ON ISLAND!

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXII, Issue No. 165

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Muhammad Ali a good choice for Liberty Medal

The selection of boxing legend Muhammad Ali to receive the 2012 Liberty Medal has sparked debate, given his refusal four decades ago to fight in the Vietnam War. But his standing up for religious principles only makes the award more appropriate.

The boxer known more now for his advocacy of civil rights at home and abroad has been an ardent promoter of world peace and humanitarian causes. A sufferer of Parkinson's disease, he also has helped raise funds for the Special Olympics and for the Muhammad Ali Parkinson's Research Center in Phoenix.

As a conscientious objector in 1967, Ali demonstrated attributes that make the case for his being the choice of the National Constitution Center to honor a person who has exemplified values that this country holds in high regard.

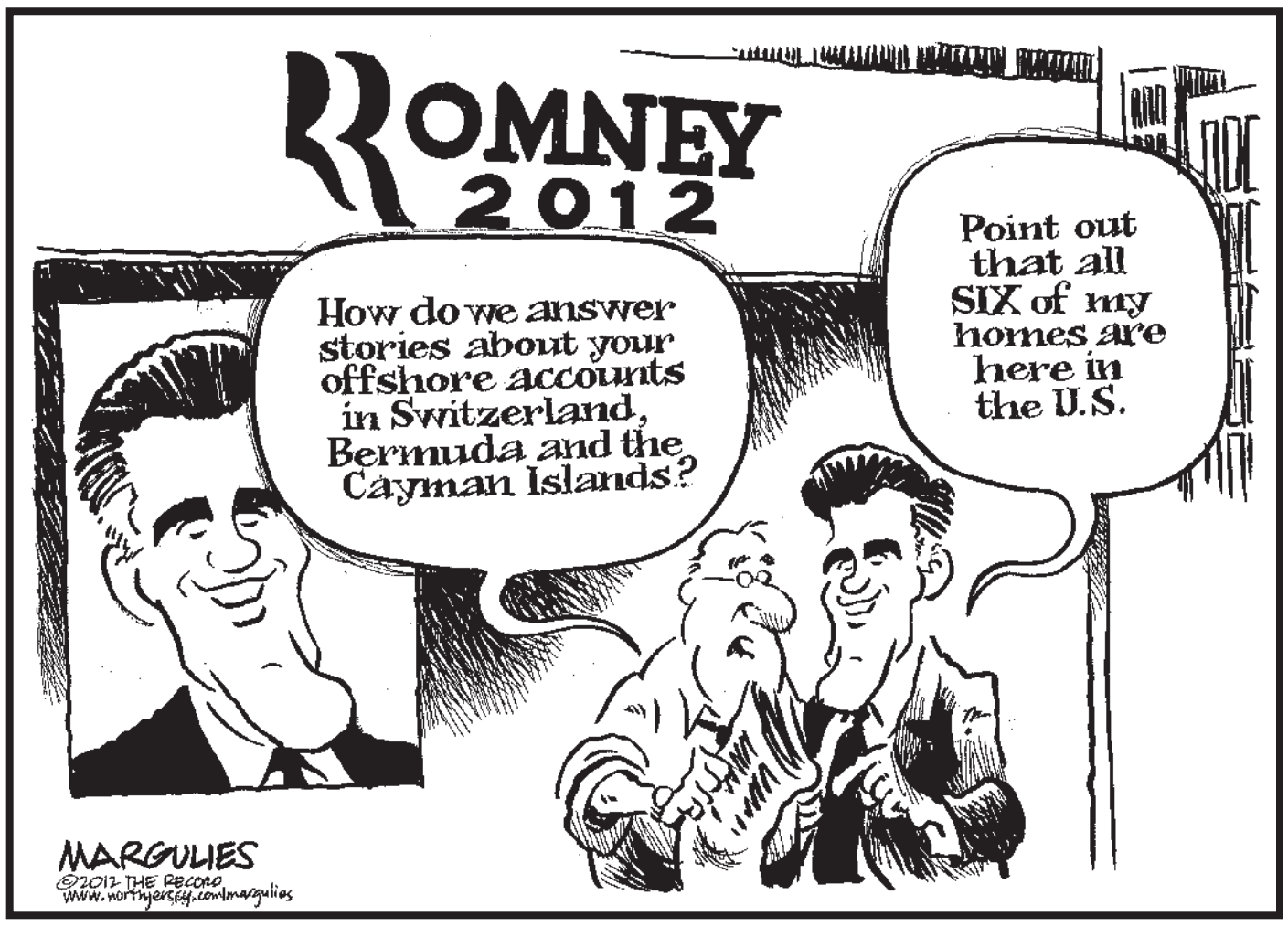
His decision to refuse induction came after Ali had converted to the Muslim faith and changed his name from Cassius Clay Jr. He was subsequently stripped of the heavyweight boxing crown. But Ali held firm to his convictions and eventually won a lengthy legal battle to have his boxing license restored. Later, the U.S. Supreme Court voided his five-year prison sentence for draft evasion.

Ali not only regained his heavyweight boxing title; he rose to even greater heights among sports giants in winning several legendary matches, including the so-called "Thrilla in Manila" in 1975 against Philadelphia boxing great Joe Frazier. Ali retired from the ring in 1981.

Ali, 70, will receive the Liberty Medal in a Sept. 13 ceremony. His wife, Yolanda, is expected to make remarks on behalf of Ali, whose speech has been affected by Parkinson's.

First awarded in 1989, the prize's recipients include Nelson Mandela, Sandra Day O'Connor, Kofi Annan, Jimmy Carter, Mikhail Gorbachev, Bono, and Colin Powell.

©2012 The Philadelphia Inquirer


ROMNEY 2012
How do we answer stories about your offshore accounts in Switzerland, Bermuda and the Cayman Islands?
Point out that all SIX of my homes are here in the U.S.
MARGULIES
©2012 THE RECORD
www.northjersey.com/margulies

All roads lead to bankruptcy!

By JOHN DELROSARIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

With a cumulative deficit of more than $345 million, the obvious paralysis to adequately defray the cost of healthcare, Medicaid, medical referral, PSS, CUC, other agencies and municipal governments, further exacerbated (worsened) by persistent decline in revenue, is a tale that all roads lead to bankruptcy or fiscal cliff right here and now.

Though the initial distraction focuses on the bankruptcy of the imperiled Retirement Fund, it's just a matter of time before such dire straits is focused squarely on the traumatically critical financial posture of the local government. Politicians may try to allay the fears of the general public but figures don't lie, politicians do! This is where lackadaisical and obsolescent leadership comes into play to reconfigure expenditure.

The declaration of bankruptcy doesn't mean it's the end of the world. It's a management tool that grants an organization the opportunity to regroup.

Meanwhile, there came suspect tidings of newfound revenue of some $11 million. It was met with instant and roar-like declaration of the new loot.

Too, there's joy in the land as to impose additional fees and taxes on tourism and businesses alike. The band plays on even discordantly as exhausted businessmen work their calculators to figure out the impact of the new beasts.

Has the Legislature even seen the net effect of its new imposition amidst a woefully bad business climate? Is it really revenue generating or would not the new fees and taxes force further decline in business activities and revenues, including more closures?

The negative laws aren't likely to allow a return to 80 biweekly work hours. It could go the other way, exacting the urgency to reduce it to below 60 hours biweekly. In short, the host of the party must withdraw issuing the invitation for a big celebration until all the chickens have come home to roost.

Bankruptcy, however, is in the air and it's just a matter of time before the NMI faces a reality check to admit and declare it is bankrupt and there's no two ways about it.

Local political glossary

This being an election year, let's explore what words and redundant rhetoric would be used with muted enthusiasm by politicians as they brave the headwind into the campaign trail. Sure, some may be taken in by their words once more as the Top of the Line Con Men (or TOLCM) deliver their tired, incoherent, adolescent and redundant nonsense.

There's the word "recovery" some may brave using when talking to an audience. It's a word closely associated with health and economy. Candidates may brave its usage as they lamely speak of reviving the local economy. What's the concrete definition?

Let's not define it in that it would take away the fun politicians have using the double definition to suit their wares—lack of clarity though loaded with lame bravery. Most have no idea what the concept entails (economic recovery given their illiteracy) but would chance using the leviathan term to sound bigger than King Kong. Would any of them make sense as they try to survive another second of humiliation by braving ignorance, displaying that he knows not how to untangle and save himself a trip into the dark land of disorientation?

The term "address" would likely pop up as the TOLCM attempt to persuade villagers that they are working to pave the road to Fiscal Cliff so the unscheduled jump into political oblivion is done quickly. It would be the equivalent of braving its use to show he has an improved repertoire under his belt on newly learned vocabulary on his way to the mike. They'd even slip in the phrase "work closely with" to show some sense of superficial unity among candidates. You know, camaraderie that doesn't exist. And for those caught with stage fright, we should hear more "biba" than a meaningful speech.

The "SNAP" program would also make it to the top list of abused acronym though Republicans would be mute, deaf, and blind on this score. They've excoriated (criticized) and accused Kilili of turning the NMI into a "nanny" state. But then Republicans have failed big time on wealth and jobs creation. This royal failure has forced more people into the humiliating NAP line. Thus their incoherent argument confirms ignorance, unaware that their blueprint exacted the complete opposite: a nanny state! Embarrassing the foot in mouth disease and the perversion of the truth!

Article 12 would also emerge as an issue. Now, a candidate must review the entire nine yards on this matter before taking his misguided and failed perception into the public arena. In short, employ some sense of intellectual integrity before you even mouth off all the wrong information. There's the panacea that land is important to the local culture. I've pressed for an educated explanation of the relationship (land and culture) to which there's a long pause without a decent answer from proponents of A-12. Isn't farming the cultural tradition of these isles? Hasn't landownership changed from farming to simple family asset? Aren't you wrongfully using ancestral definition to blanket contemporary relationship with land?

Comes the word "indigenous" often hurled to sound lamely relevant in obvious misperception of the term. Can any of you, using historical facts, tell me who is and isn't indigenous? Can a non-owner of these isles legally dispose of indigenous Chamorro land? Be honest and don't flip the racial card to use as a shield from the truth. Historical facts are just that—facts! Has DNA come up with the technology to decipher how much of one's blood is French, English, German, Chamorro, and Carolinian? Why compromise genealogy to peddle the ethnocentric agenda of indigenous hegemony?

See ALL on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Commander Zepkron's grumpy old men

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

Thanks to a question from a Saipan Tribune reader I get to share some cool news with you. Last week I mentioned a NASA Mars mission. On the heels of that column came an e-mail asking if Mars is visible from Saipan.

Answer: Yes. It's not only easy to see, but this is a good time to see it. There's a lot going on in that area.

If you look west at 9pm, you'll see a bright, orange-colored body about 30 degrees over the horizon. That's Mars.

You may ask, "Dude, how can I estimate 30 degrees?"

Hey, no problem. Let me mention a little trick. My all-seeing gimlet eye happens to know that you've got a degree-measurer in your hand right now.

How do I know that? Because it is your hand!

Here's how it works: Make a fist like you're holding and aiming a pistol, extending your arm out, just like a target shooter. Your fist, at arm's length, is now covering 10 degrees of vertical arc.

So to set your eye 30 degrees over the horizon, you hold your fist out and walk it up from the horizon. One fist; two fist; three fist; Mars.

You can test this technique even if you're sitting in your office. Walk your fist up from the horizontal nine steps, and you should wind up looking at the ceiling directly over your head, which is the 90 degree point. Sure, your co-workers will think you're nuts, but they probably think that anyway. Just tell them Space-Commander Zepkron is beaming orders from Andromeda and you need to orient your mind-receptor to the zenith. This is great fun, and nobody will pester you again when it's time to kick in five bucks for the coffee fund.

Of course, you can rotate your fist so you can slice 10 degrees of arc in any direction. It doesn't have to be vertical. Like, duh.

Now that you're an expert on the topic, I'll mention that Mars is actually one fist to the left of due west at 9pm today, not that it really matters, but times are tough so I want you to get your money's worth.

In fact, there is quite a little celestial get-together going on in the west, providing a perfect viewing opportunity for folks on Saipan, since most folks live on the west side of the island. Mars is close to Saturn right now, and Saturn is next to the brightest star in the sky, Sirius.

This trio takes stage after sunset. So I'm using 9pm as the benchmark time here since Mars will go nighty-night early, setting at around 11 pm. The other two will follow like grumpy old men who can't stay awake for the fireworks.

Well, so much for Mars. Next adventure: Saturn. To get there, we're going to make a diagonal move from Mars. The diagonal will move toward the upper-left. We'll measure our movement with fists again, starting at Mars. One fist; two fist; Saturn.

Here's how to tell if you're there. Just to the left of Saturn is the star Sirius, a little bit diagonally offset but you'll see it anyway. So if you're near this pair, you'll know it, since, like Mars, Sirius and Saturn are both very bright. In fact, these are a couple of total overachievers.

Sirius, as I mentioned, is the brightest star in the heavens, at least from the Earthling perspective. Saturn is the famous ringed planet which has 62 moons, most of which are really small, but a couple of which are visible with a small telescope.

Speaking of which, I got my wife all jazzed on Saturn last week, since the rings are so spectacular. So she finally consented to letting me buy a bigger telescope. While I was silently gloating over that little victory the motor mounts in the SUV sheared. I don't know what made the universe, but whatever it is, it hates me. My telescope fund is wiped out. Oh well, back to the lotto again.

Now if you'll excuse me, I have an incoming message to answer...Ah, yes, Commander Zepkron, it's good to hear from you, sir. We're having a star-gazing party at twenty-one hundred hours, and you're invited. Can you make it? Great! Sure, I'll remind you: It's 17 billion fists east of the Guam-Pleiades meridian. That's right, Micro Beach, same as last time. Would you mind giving me a ride? Yeah, my SUV is in the shop again. Thank you. See you then, sir. Over and out.

A tale told in Srebrenica

By SARAH KENYON LISCHER
LOS ANGELES TIMES

"We give this town to the Serb nation. …The time has come to take revenge on the Turks."

Seventeen years later, the words still hang in the air like poison gas over Srebrenica. With that speech, Bosnian Serb Gen. Ratko Mladic pronounced the death sentence on more than 8,000 Bosnian Muslim men and boys. On July 11, 1995, the slaughter began. Bosnian Serb soldiers loyal to Mladic hunted down, tortured, and killed the male inhabitants of Srebrenica in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which the United Nations had blithely declared a "safe area" for Muslim civilians. The Serbs expelled the women and children, brutally tearing teenage sons from their wailing mothers. The exceptional savagery of the killings was justified by a story. A story that happened 200 years ago.

In newly conquered Srebrenica, Mladic referred to the 1804 Serb uprising against the Ottoman Empire. The "Turks" put down the revolt in 1813, reinforcing the victim status of Serbs in their national identity. By a bizarre yet deadly transference of historical myth, he cast the 20th century Bosnian Muslims as the legitimate target for perceived past injustices. Any action against them counted as "revenge on the Turks." (No matter that the Serbs and Muslims share a Slavic ethnic lineage.) There is no national narrative more dangerous than that of victimhood.

Last month, I was in Srebrenica when I first heard Mladic's speech in a heart-rending video at an abandoned factory that had served as the U.N. peacekeepers' headquarters. There, in 1995, 5,000 terrified Muslims had desperately sought shelter. I stood alone in the dank, echoing space haunted by ghosts of the refugees. The factory now forms part of the official memorial to the genocide. Mladic's boastful promise of revenge accounts for a mere 20 seconds of footage. Yet the malevolent hatred in his words filled me with an irrational fear. Evil has that effect.

Later, standing at the burial site of Srebrenica's boys and men, I wondered how the memorial's story changed Serb narratives. The answer: It hasn't. Mladic now stands trial for genocide at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia at The Hague. Thus far, he has presented an unrepentant and swaggering demeanor. He is not alone. Bosnian Serb politician Radovan Karadzic, another ICC defendant, adamantly denies his leading role in the killings. According to Serbia's newly inaugurated president, Tomislav Nikolic, there was no Srebrenica genocide. For many Bosnian Serbs, Mladic is a hero, a victim of international injustice. Their interpretation draws on, and stokes, the national narrative of victimhood.

What must the mothers and widows from Srebrenica feel as they watch the proceedings at The Hague? For one thing, they can't forget they were betrayed by the rest of the world. In the early 1990s, we heard the stories of Bosnia and dismissed them. Stories with pictures, firsthand accounts and sound effects. Newspapers printed front-page images of skeletal concentration camp inmates. In shaken whispers, Muslim women and girls recounted rapes so brutal and numerous that many victims committed suicide. The Serb artillery trained on Sarajevo reverberated on the nightly news for more than three years. Over and over, survivors have asked me how we could have ignored their suffering during the war.

The stories of 1995 persist. Tales told by Srebrenica's widows, Serbian politicians, the lawyers at The Hague. How will they affect the present? As monologues, the Srebrenica narratives will continue to increase divisions, undermine justice and potentially spark violence. As dialogues, these stories have the power to promote justice, consensus and reconciliation. If the speakers can listen. If the listeners also have a voice. And if the international powers—the International Criminal Court, the European Union, the U.S. government—pay attention this time.

The ICC will pronounce a sentence on Mladic's version of history. The EU will decide whether a genocide-denying Serbia can move a step closer to membership. The U.S. will choose whether to continue programs that support liberal democracy in Bosnia. In all these decisions, future concord depends on the stories we tell about past atrocity.

Sarah Kenyon Lischer, an associate professor in the Department of Politics and International Affairs at Wake Forest University, is the author of Dangerous Sanctuaries: Refugee Camps, Civil War, and the Dilemmas of Humanitarian Aid. *She wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Questions that need answers

The news gets more and more distressing. The latest was today's story that the House cut MVA's budget because, it said, MVA could make up the shortfall with the new $15 tourism and environmental fee. But wasn't that fee devised because there hadn't been enough money for MVA in the budget in the first place?

Then there's Saipan Southern High School's dilemma—it still lacks $35,000 for its trip to London. Has the administration or the Legislature or MVA provided any support? The band's presence in London, England is a huge publicity opportunity for the CNMI. Shouldn't the CNMI government help make sure the band gets there? And what about CNMI-labeled attire or giveaways? Here's a prime opportunity to advertise the CNMI worldwide. Assuming the CNMI is providing support, why is there no information about what that support consists of? And if it's not, why isn't it?

Then there's Medicaid. Rather than trying to set priorities as to which Medicaid vendor gets paid first or how much—a slippery slope if there ever was one—why not pay each Medicaid provider the same percentage of his/her bill? Isn't that more fair? Then nobody can complain.

And the rush to adopt Social Security—why has there been no information on just how that will all work? Who gets in? Will it be mandatory? How much will it cost employees? What will they get for their money? On what terms? What about the predictions that Social Security itself is in trouble—and will run out of funds in 10 to 20 years? Is the CNMI merely going from the frying pan into the fire as far as a retirement program is concerned? And where will that leave the retirees?

The AG's office—where experienced attorneys' contracts are being allowed to lapse and new hires being taken on fresh out of law school. The coconut wireless has it that CUC's attorney was let go; pitting a greenhorn against the U.S. EPA is folly indeed! Also said to have been let go, among others, is an attorney who brought in over $250,000 in collections. What kind of wisdom is that?

The House' servile acceptance, unchanged, of the governor's executive order to take over the Retirement Fund, rather than working with the Senate to protect the Fund's trust funds, keep the Fund operational. Despite the disdain for attorneys, perhaps here is an occasion where no other remedy will work, and the CRA should go ahead and hire one to file a TRO?

The promises of restored full work hours is not so much distressing as it is deceptive. Is it real? Where is the funding coming from? Shouldn't it be going to CHC? CUC? The Retirement Fund?

Where does solution lie? It lies with the voter. The issue is whether we can afford to wait until November, and if not, what to do in the meantime.

Ruth L. Tighe
Tanapag, Saipan

ALL

From Page 10

You want racial hegemony yet you also peddle a powerful agent of change—casino? Isn't this an oxymoronic viewpoint?

Bankruptcy would probably top the entire list of words that political opposition would use to the hilt to slam Republicans. It simply means no money, broke! Coupled with its grand *mañana* shoving aside vital issues of livelihood, ignoring folks in the villages makes for a very difficult use of the art of persuasion. It's all an uphill battle. Naturally, this word is followed by the term "cut" which makes it woefully difficult as politicians assess their future if they "tell it like it is." Many would turn into life-size cowards from Jurassic Park.

Your understanding of first principles, law of the land, supremacy of laws, basic economics, taxation, negative investment policies, and the ability to articulate them with credibility, believability, and diction speak volumes of your potential qualifications. If perchance you're not sure, it's best to follow an old advice to keeping your trap shut and keep them guessing than to open it and erase all doubts. No worries, I'd be keeping my ears to the ground. This midterm election promises to be very interesting, indeed.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Isolated thunderstorms during the day. Southeast wind 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Isolated thunderstorms during the day. Southeast wind 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲88 ° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

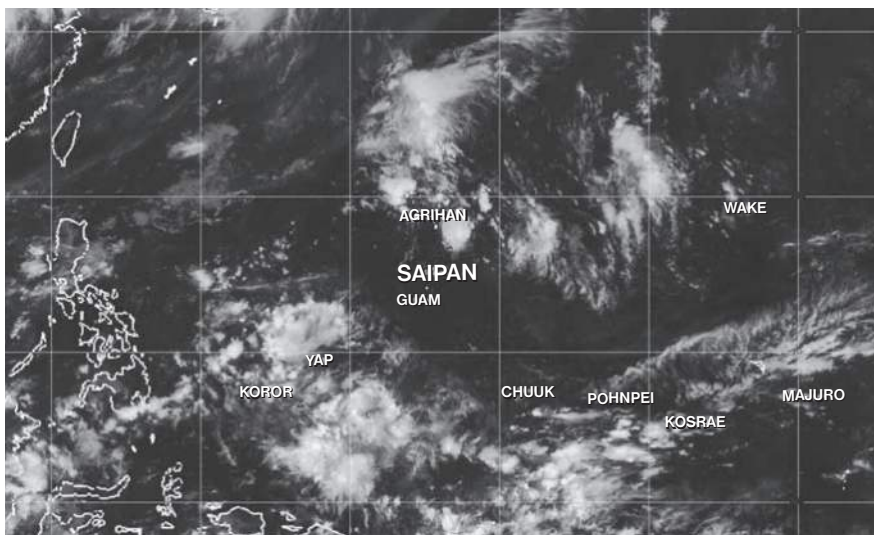
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼80
Palau	Showers	▲84	▼75
Yap	Showers	▲89	▼76
Chuuk	Showers	▲86	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87	▼76
Kosrae	Showers	▲87	▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	▲61	▼48
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼68
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲90	▼84
Honolulu	Showers	▲84	▼75
London	Showers	▲64	▼56
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼67
Manila	Thundershowers	▲89	▼80
Melbourne	Showers	▲54	▼42
Miami	Thundershowers	▲87	▼79
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲90	▼73
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲84	▼76
Paris	Showers	▲67	▼56
Pusan	Thundershowers	▲79	▼72
Rome	Sunny	▲89	▼69
Salem	Sunny	▲86	▼55
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲62	▼53
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲78	▼72
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲82	▼75
Washington, DC	Showers	▲88	▼74

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, JULY 12, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough reaches northeastward from west of the Marianas at 14N140W through a weak circulation centered just west of the far northern CNMI at 20N142E to just south of Iwo To island at 24N141E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring over the northern CNMI and Iwo To island or north of a line from 21N141E to 16N148E. A near-equatorial trough extends eastward from 4N130E through a circulation centered south of Yap at 5N139E to end at 4N143E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring across the Republic of Palau and Yap state within 430 miles of a line from 12N134E to 3N142E. An upper-level low is centered southeast of Minami Tori Shima at 22N157E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are evident between the CNMI and Minami Tori Shima within 200 miles of a line from 16N155E to 23N159E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Chuuk and Pohnpei or south of a line from 4N150E to 6N161E. Similar conditions are also found just east of Kwajalein and north of Majuro within 70 miles of a line from 9N169E to 10N175E to 7N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:05 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
10:47 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
5:51 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
10:08 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	5:55 AM	6:51 PM
Monday	5:55 AM	6:51 PM
Tuesday	5:55 AM	6:51 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:53 AM	1:55 PM
Saturday	1:36 AM	2:44 PM
Sunday	2:21 AM	3:34 PM
Monday	3:09 AM	4:24 PM
Tuesday	3:59 AM	5:13 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 7, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30am	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 3, 5 via SPN

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)

UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5071	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Medicaid realities

By DAVID KHORRAM
Special to the Saipan Tribune

David Khorram, MD is the CNMI's only ophthalmologist and the medical director of Marianas Eye Institute. He is listed in Guide to America's Top Ophthalmologists. For comments or questions, call 235-9090.

"Connie" is a 52-year-old Chamorro woman who is the mother of four children, the grandmother of seven. She is one of the CNMI's 15,000 or so people on Medicaid. And she's about to go blind due to a lack of Medicaid funding. Let me tell you her story.

Like may Pacific Islanders, Connie was at risk for developing diabetes before she was even born, a risk bestowed upon her by her genetics. Her environment—a culture where food is central to celebration and where calorie-rich foods are plentiful—gave her those few extra pounds of belly fat that served as fuel for her genetic risk, allowing it to flourish into full-blown diabetes by her early 40s. By her mid-40s she had developed damage to her blood vessels from the diabetes. And the area of her body most severely affected was her eyes. She knew that as a diabetic, she should get her eyes checked every year, but she was always too busy to get it done. When she did come in, she already had advanced diabetic eye disease. Modern medicine made it possible to save her vision, but a few missed appointments allowed her diabetic eye disease to explode into a severe form where new blood vessels were growing throughout her eyes. In January of this year, she started on treatment with an almost miraculous medication that I place into her eyes once a month. The medication mad the new blood vessels disappear, and it saved her vision, bu the medication is not a permanent fix. One month without th medication and she loses some of her vision. Two month without the medication and she is blind. Permanently.

Our clinic is facing the same realities of other clinics tha can no longer provide services to Medicaid patients becaus of lack of payment. We have tried to hold on as long as w could. But we may not be able to do so much longer. The las check we received was for Medicaid services we provide in July 2011—no, that's not a typo—2011. It's hard to kee paying for the drugs we use, the staff we employ, power, an all the other expenses involved with running a medical clini when payments are so far behind. I don't know how things ar going to get resolved. But I do know that without treatment Connie will be blind in two months, and unless the Medicai program is adequately funded, others will share Connie's fate and worse.

It's a positive step that the local funding for Medicai has been increased by $1 million for the coming year. Bu let's examine what kind of funding is needed to provide th kind of care the Medicaid population needs. Do a Googl search, and you'll quickly find that the average spendin per Medicaid member in the United States is somewher between $1,000 to $2,000 per year. Budgets have to b built on realistic numbers. In building our local Medicai budget, we can take the lower of these numbers ($1,000) and expect that the cost of care to the Medicaid progran in the CNMI will be $1,000 per member per year. (Just fo perspective, the CNMI's current budget is $353 per mem ber per year.) Currently, there are 15,000 or so people o Medicaid. (These numbers are increasing as the economy makes more people eligible to receive Medicaid, but let' just stick with 15,000.) If we spend the "low" side of th national average—$1,000 per year—on 15,000 Medicai patients, the program needs $15 million per year. Tha might seem like a lot, especially given the current budge at $5.3 million. But like it or not, it's the reality. And it' a very conservative reality. Budget less than this and yo can expect that you'll have difficulty paying for services Don't pay for services and you can expect that the service will no longer be available. These, too, are realities.

With a local-federal match of 45:55, our local governmen needs to budget $6.75 million (45 percent) in order to get th $8.25 million (55 percent) federal match . This number— $6.75 million—is the starting point for any discussion abou the budget. In a proposed budget of $112 million, $6.75 mil lion is barely 6 percent of the budget. Currently, the local al location of $2.5 million is 2 percent of the budget.

Can we come up with the extra $4.25 million to adequate ly fund the Medicaid program? Of course we can. But wil we? That's the real question. And the answer is, "it all de pends." It depends where our priorities are and how we wan to spend our money. If we allocate 2 percent of our budget o the healthcare of 15,000 people, and we know that this is no enough (and we do know that it is not enough), we are essen tially saying that whatever we are spending the remaining 9 percent of the budget on is more important than the healthcare of these 15,000 people. Maybe some of it is. But I'd bet that there's 4 percent of it that isn't. By finding that 4 percent, we can get our local contribution up to $6.75 million. It's just a matter of being honest about our priorities and the choices we make in setting a budget and in understanding the repercussion of those choices. Many of those repercussions are too complex for me to understand but I do understand the effects of inadequate healthcare.

Now, we can wish for all kinds of things—we can wish for the economy to get better, for spending to go down, for people to live healthier and therefore require less healthcare, for the federal government to lower our local matching requirements. These are all good wishes. But that's all they are—wishes. I wish Connie had come in sooner. The wishes don't change the reality.

So, what is the reality, stripped of the wishes? The reality is that the "low" national average for Medicaid spending is $1,000 per Medicaid member per year. The reality is that we have about 15,000 Medicaid members. The reality is that the local-federal match is 45:55, and that we need to budget a local match of $6.75 million to cover the healthcare costs of our Medicaid population at this "low" national average costs. That's the reality.

Surely, somewhere in the budget, we can find $4.25 million that is less important than the healthcare of 15,000 people. And if we can't, then there are other realities that are set in motion that we have to face and take responsibility for. When we budget less than the national average for Medicaid spending, we run out of money, Connie goes blind, Jose has a stroke, Carmen is disabled from a heart attack, and Henry dies of a head injury. Not because they had to, but because of the choices we made with our budget. And if that's how it has to be, so be it. Let's just be aware of the realities as we make the difficult choices.

JOETEN ACE HARDWARE
CUSTOMER APPRECIATION
SATURDAY, JULY 14, 2012
8:00 TO 12:00 P.M.
SALE
25%off
Furniture, Whirlpool Appliances, Power & Hand Tools, Selected Hardware, Plumbing, Electrical, Paint Supplies, Lawn & Garden, Pet Supplies, Automotive, Cleaning Supplies and Housewares
15%off
ACE BEST BUYS
Garden Power Tools, Air Compressor, Pressure Washer, Generator and Bed Sets and Mattress/Foundation
12:00 TO 6:00 P.M.
15% Off - Furniture, Whirlpool Appliances, Power & Hand Tools, Plumbing, Electrical, Selected Hardware, Paint Supplies, Lawn & Garden, Pet Supplies, Automotive, Cleaning Supplies, Housewares, Garden Power Tools, Air Compressor, Pressure Washer, Generator, Bed Sets & Mattress/foundation
10% off Chain Saw
STIHL
16" Poulan
Some items not discountable / Sale items not included (Lumb Water Heater and etc.)
ACE The Helpful Place!
Saipan & Rota
ALL LOCATIONS - Gualo Rai, Susupe , San Vicente and Songsng Rota Branch
• Except Sale Items
• Cash and Carry
• Some items not discountable
• No rain checks
• Delivery charge $10.00
• Credit card acceptable
• In stock merchandise only
We accept major credit cards
EXPRESS VISA

GUANGDONG HARDWARE
Never satisfied until you are
GUANGDONG MILEI? GUANGDONG BA ITO?
GOOD NEWS TO ALL TINIAN/ROTA CUSTOMERS:
To order just dial 288-2288, Payment can be made through credit card authorization, or cashier check, postal money order, traveler's check sent thru Freedom Air/ SN-5.
2012 BIG BANG SPECIAL!
HOLLOW BLOCKS (CMU) 4" – $0.65/pc 6" – $0.75/pc 8" – $0.85/pc
#4 REBAR $840.00/BUNDLE
#3,#5,#6,#7,#8 REBAR $850.00/ST MADE IN KOREA
THIN-SET MORTAR $7.80
JOINT COMPOUND $21.00 5 GAL.
ELECTRICAL PIPE 1/2" $2.40 | 3/4" $2.90
NEW ARRIVALS OF CERAMIC TILES 12"*12" $0.89/pc • 8"*12" $0.60/pc
CPVC PIPE 1/2" $18.00 • 3/4" $26.00 • 1" $35.00
OTHERS
CEMENT $7.50/BAG
DELIVERY CHARGE TO TINIAN-$3.00/BAG
SEMI-GLOSS INT. & EXT. LATEX $19.50/GAL | $79.99/PAIL
FLAT INT. & EXT. LATEX (PRIMER) $17.50/GAL | $69.50/PAIL
WIRE MESH 7'*50' $73.00
WIRE MESH 7'*100' $136.00
U.S. LUMBER
2X4X20 REGULAR: $7.50
2X4X20 TREATED: $14.50
UTILITY LUMBER REGULAR
2X4X12... $3.95 2X6X14... $7.60
2X4X14... $4.95 2X6X16... $8.90
2X4X16... $5.70 2X6X18... $9.90
2X6X12... $6.70 2X6X20... $10.90
15% TO 50% OFF ALL DAMAGED ITEMS!
CHEAPEST DEALER OF MAJOR CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL ON ISLAND!
P.O. BOX 501640, SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 288-2288/2289/6688
FAX: 288-4488
E-mail:gddc@pticom.com
Business hours:
Mon. to Sat. 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
AMERICAN EXPRESS MasterCard VISA

Matson lowers fuel surcharge for NMI, Guam

As a result of recent declines in bunker fuel prices, Matson Navigation Co. Inc. is decreasing its bunker fuel surcharges by 3 percentage points for its Hawaii**,** Guam, CNMI, and Micronesia services, according to a company statement issued yesterday.

Effective July 15, 2012, the drop lowers the charge from 42 percent to 39 percent for its Hawaii service, and from 38.5 percent to 35.5 percent for its Guam/ CNMI and Micronesia services.

"We are pleased to be able to make this second consecutive downward adjustment to our fuel surcharge, which for most customers represents a reduction in shipping costs ranging from $70 to $120 per container," said Dave Hoppes, senior vice president, in an email to customers.

The last time the company adjusted its fuel surcharge was on June 17, 2012, when it lowered the rate by 3.5 percent.

It is the fifth consecutive decrease for the Guam, CNMI, and Micronesia services, with the company saying no upward change was necessary earlier in the year due to "significant increases in freight volume," following the departure of a competitor late last year.

The increase of 5 percentage points for the Hawaii service on Feb. 26, 2012, was proceeded by three consecutive decreases in 2011.

Matson says it is continuing to monitor fuel costs and will adjust the surcharge accordingly. ***(PR)***

Mirano found guilty

Alicia A.G. Limtiaco, U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, announced yesterday the guilty verdict of Earl Eric Mirano on Wednesday in the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands.

Mirano was found guilty of conspiracy to commit bank fraud and bank fraud, regarding the cashing of old CNMI tax refund checks. The charges stem from a superseding indictment filed on June 7, 2012, against Mirano and Mohammad Jahangir Miah.

The guilty verdict is the result of a six-day jury trial that was heard by Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona. The jury found Mirano guilty of count 1, conspiracy to commit bank fraud, in violation of 18, United States Code, Sections 1349 and 2, and count 2, bank fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1344 and 2.

Miah was acquitted on July 10, 2012.

Mirano's sentencing hearing is scheduled for Oct. 19, 2012. He faces a statutorymaximum penalty of 30 years imprisonment and a maximum fine of $1 million.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The case was prosecuted by assistant U.S. attorney Stephen F. Leon Guerrero. ***(USAO)***

CNMI Forestry gets $200K grant funds

The CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Division of Agriculture-CNMI Forestry was recently awarded its 2012 grant totaling $200,000. The funds will be used under the Urban and Community Forestry program, which focuses on beautification of parks, beaches, and public places by planting trees.

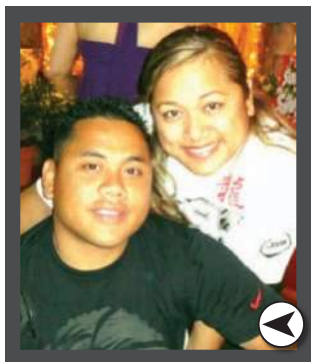
Funds also cover the Forest Stewardship Program, which focuses on non-industrial, private landowners and increasing the diversity of forest trees.

The grant also covers the Cooperative Forest Health and Invasive Species, which focuses on tree health and recovery, reduction of invasive tree species, and reduction of forest pests.

The 2012 award is approved for one year. The programs mission is: "Conserve Working Forest Lands, Protect Forests from Harm, Enhance Public Benefits from Trees and Forests and to establish and improve the programs' WEB-DET Capacity." The grant award took effect on July 1, 2012, through July 1, 2013.

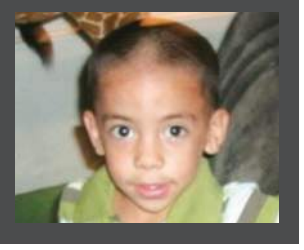
CNMI Forestry has worked closely with U.S. Forest Service Region 5 since 1982. ***(DLNR)***

WEDDING DAY



Congratulations to the newlyweds, Mr. and Mrs. Roy and Jasmine Kaipat, who will be married today, July 13, 2012! May you two be blessed with joy, happiness, and laughter 'til the end of time, and may the good Lord bless you and your family! Greetings come from Kayven Xane, Jodian, Randall, the Masgas, friends, and family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy 4th birthday to our brother, Ardonn Josiah! May the good Lord bless you with many more years to come! We love you always! Greetings come from Jylon, Aiyana, and Keanalise.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

KIA MOTORS
The Power to Surprise™
2012 KIA SOUL
$136
PER PAYCHECK*

The 2012 Kia Soul
A new way to roll.
Visit us on Facebook
LEARN MORE
HD Radio Experience HD Radio
UP TO 34 MPG**
Bluetooth What you need to know
UVO Powered by Microsoft
Joeten Motors POWERED BY YOU
SHOWROOM HOURS: MON. – FRI. 8 AM – 6 PM • SAT. 8 AM - 12 NOON • TEL. (670) 234-5562
Vehicle may not be exactly as shown • Some conditions apply • On approved credit • See dealer for details • While Supplies last. **EPA Estimated hwy mpg.
* KIA Soul total price $18,495.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $292.96 or $135.21 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred price $17,577.60. Documentation fees and registration not included.

NMTI refutes reports of impending demise

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Officials of the Northern Marianas Trade Institute assured the public yesterday that reports of its demise are untrue, vowing to continue the career school's operations despite the financial challenges it is facing.

"It's getting better…the school is not going to die," NMTI owner Pellegrino told *Saipan Tribune* during Wednesday's meeting of Saipan Chamber of Commerce where he announced that the school will consolidate its course offerings beginning this year.

Pellegrino is referring to the institute's construction courses where classes for plumbing, carpentry, electrical, mason, and others are being held separately.

He said NMTI is consolidating many of these courses at the recommendation of the Guam Constructor Association, which the institute has a relationship with.

Pellegrino said this new approach would help students decide which specialty they really want to pursue.

"We will combine the courses [construction area] because there are students, after three to five months in the course, they change their mind and are not anymore interested to become a farmer, for example," explained Pellegrino.

A new course, captain boat licensing, may also be offered pending an agreement with a qualified instructor, he added.

School director Vic Cepeda confirmed yesterday that beginning October the institute will consolidate these courses into one, which will serve as core courses to be taught within eight months.

The schedule for other course offerings will, however, remain the same, he said.

He echoed Pellegrino's statement that the institute is here to stay to train and develop the local workforce.

Cepeda said that the institute needs about $500,000 each semester to effectively enforce and implement all the hands-on sessions they want to offer to students. Financial difficulties have, however, hampered them from reaching this goal.

According to Cepeda, the institute received financial help from both local and federal agencies in the past. He hopes that financial support such as educational tax credit, grants, and donations will continue to be directed to the institute.

This summer, the institute has 80 students who will be conferred their certificates by the end of the month in a special ceremony, Cepeda said.

He targets the start of new classes on Oct. 1.

According to Pellegrino, the institute's goal is to fill each class with 10 to 12 students but he is unsure if they will be able to achieve this enrollment target.

When asked how many classes and courses will be offered this new semester, he said everything will depend on the enrollment number.

Barcinas gets full scholarship for JSA summer program

A student from Rota was recently accepted to Georgetown University with a full scholarship for the Junior Statesmen of America Summer Program.

Barcinas

Randee-Jo M. Barcinas is a junior student at Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr./Sr. High School.

The daughter of Randolph and Marla Barcinas will be studying Speech and Political Communication and is schedule to depart today, July 13, 2012. She is expected to return on Aug. 8.

In preparation for her summer program, Barcinas focused on the congressional workshop, a congressional-style debate program that is a crucial part of the summer school experience.

The full scholarship is part of the Department of the Interior scholarships for the 2012 JSA Summer Schools. The scholarship will cover her tuition, room and board, and travel expenses.

Based on the JSA packet provided to Barcinas, the summer school consists of outstanding high school students from across the globe, young people who are involved in their communities and schools, and who have passion for politics and loves challenges. Barcinas, as its new scholar, will join a prestigious group of JSA alumni worldwide.

Courses offered at the summer program are described as intensive and demanding. Classes meet six days a week and each course meets for a total of 85 hours during the three-week program. Graduation for the summer program is slated on Aug. 5. ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***

Rota, Tinian centers offer free lessons

The Rota Chamorro Village Cultural Center is offering free lessons to Chamorros and Carolinians on making *saibok lemai, apigigi' mendioka, paki para usun pumeskan tasi* and how to throw the *talaya* this Saturday, July 14, 2012, at the back side of the Community and Cultural Affairs office compound. The lesson will start at 9am and will end at 3pm.

On Tinian, the Tinian Chamorro-Carolinian Cultural Center is offering free lessons to Chamorros and Carolinians on making *buñelos kamuti* and *amot minangnglo'* this Saturday at the Tinian Senior Citizen Center Pavilion. The lessons will start at 9am.

Bring your children so they, too, can learn the traditional ways of the Chamorros and Carolinian. Both centers are looking forward to your participation.

These activities are sponsored by the Association of Native Medicine and Culture, in partnership with the Rota Community and Cultural Affairs Office, Rota Mayor's Office, the Tinian Community and Cultural Affairs Office, Tinian Mayor's Office, and the Indigenous Affairs Office (Saipan), and funded in part by the Administration for Native Americans.

For more information, call 532-9350/5562 on Rota and ask for Elizabeth Kani. On Tinian call 433-9220 and ask for Raymond Sablan. On Saipan, call 322-0278. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

Benigno R. Fitial
Governor

Eloy S. Inos
Lt. Governor

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This ad is paid for by NMHC funds.

Notice is hereby given that the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is the agency authorized to allocate Low Incoming Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) in the CNMI. The United States 1986 Tax Reform Act created the federal low-income housing tax credit program under Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code (Code) to assist with the development of low-income rental housing by providing qualified owners with credit to offset their federal tax obligations. The LIHTC is available to owners/developers of qualifying buildings and projects that meet certain low-income occupancy and rent restrictions.

Section 42 of the Code provides that the CNMI prepare a Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) to determine housing priorities and to give preference to projects serving the lowest income tenants and projects obligated to serve qualified tenants for the longest periods. The QAP must incorporate selection criteria, which includes project location, housing need characteristics, sponsor characteristics, tenant populations with special needs, and public housing waiting lists.

NMHC has developed a QAP and is available at NMHC's office. The QAP describes the basis that NMHC will use to allocate LIHTCs. NMHC may allocate **$2,525,000.00** in LIHTCs for the 2012 program year.

Application for LIHTCs

Owners/Developers wishing to apply for the LIHTCs should obtain and complete a LIHTC Application. The LIHTC Application may be obtained from NMHC's Office in Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950.

Owners/Developers must file the completed LIHTC Application along with the **$1,000.00 Application Fee** in NMHC's Office by the Application Deadline of **4:30 pm, September 14, 2012.** NMHC staff will review the application and will notify the Owner/Developer of any deficiencies by 15 days time or **September 29, 2012**. The owner/developer will be given 14 days to correct any deficiencies. Any corrections or supplemental information requested by NMHC must be received by **October 15, 2012**. The projects will be scored and recommendations made to the NMHC Board of Directors for approval at its **October or November 2012** Board Meeting.

Notification of Awards

NMHC will notify Owners/Developers of the projects receiving LIHTCs thirty (30) days following the October or November 2012 Board of Directors meeting. The reservation letter must be signed and returned to NMHC by no later than thirty (30) days from the date of notification.

For more information on this program, please contact NMHC at 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**
Acting Corporate Director

NMHC will make necessary arrangements for persons with disabilities or persons requiring interpreters upon prior notification. Should you require such arrangements, please contact Ms. Jocelyn Kaipat at telephone numbers 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED BIDS for Terminal Improvements, Phase I at the Tinian International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Project No. CPA-TA-002-08 will be received at the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada / Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP, 96950,

All Bids shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: Tinian International Airport, Terminal Improvements, Phase I, Project No. CPA-TA-002-08 and must be submitted no later than **2:00 PM on FRIDAY, July 13, 2012** to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed Bids will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of, but is not limited to, demolition, building and site improvements, including concrete foundations, concrete slab-on-grade, cast-in-place concrete, roof membrane, metal roofing, thermal insulation, concrete masonry unit walls, non-structural metal framing, carpentry, gypsum board, ceramic tiles, resilient flooring, acoustical ceilings, aluminum doors and frames, aluminum windows, glazing, cabinetry, toilet partitions, toilet accessories, painting, ventilation, air conditioning, plumbing, electrical lighting and power, complete and ready for use all in accordance with the Project Drawings and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from CNMI Capital Improvement Program. The Contract award, if it is made, will be made within ninety (90) calendar days of the receipt of Bid Proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold such Bids in effect for one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the date of Bid opening.

The Contract period for construction of the Project in its entirety shall be One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days. Liquidated damages in the amount of Three Hundred Dollars ($300.00) shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that completion of the Project is delayed beyond the Contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low Bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." The review will include, but is not necessarily limited to, previous projects experience, financial capability, quantity and quality of equipment and personnel, and ability to secure bonding and insurance. If the apparent low Bidder is found to be not "responsive and responsible", their Bid will be rejected and the next lowest Bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers on the Project shall be paid not less than the minimum wage rate established by CNMI Law or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. The Contractor shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract. A copy of the CNMI Minimum Wage Rate Determination is included in the General Provisions, Section 70-25.

Each Bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the "Bidder's Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause", a "Certification of Non-Segregated Facilities", and the "Assurance of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Participation", as contained in the Bid Proposal documents, with submission of their Bid Proposal.

A CD-Rom containing the Bid Proposal and Contract Documents, including Drawings and Specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada / Saipan International Airport, upon payment of TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS ($200.00) for each set of documents in electronic form, including the Bid Schedule. The payment is non-refundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal Money Order made payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority".

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at CPA, Conference Room, Tinian International Airport, at **10:00 am, FRIDAY, JUNE 29, 2012**, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this Project. All prospective Bidders are required to attend. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

Bid Proposals shall be submitted on the Bid Schedule form included on the CD-Rom obtained from the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all Bids submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding Bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the Bid Schedule or misentry of the quantity of line items; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the Project Contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said Bids if, in its sole opinion, to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each Bidder must supply all information required by the Bid Proposal documents and Specifications.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the Specifications. Bid Proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority office.

A Contractor having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000.00) or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the Specifications. To be eligible for award, each Bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit Bids in response to this Invitation and will not be discriminated against, on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin in consideration for an award of any Contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

Each Bid shall be accompanied by either a Bid Bond issued by a U.S. Treasury listed surety company, a Certified Check, or a Cashier's Check in an amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the Bid Price. Checks shall be made payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority".

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Board Chairman / Contracting Officer

Date: June 11, 2012

Philippe Schaus is new chairman, CEO of DFS Group

HONOLULU, Hawaii—DFS Group, the world's largest luxury travel retailer, announced yesterday that its board of directors has elected Philippe Schaus as chief executive officer effective Aug. 1, 2012. Schaus succeeds Edward J. Brennan who is retiring as CEO after 13 years in that position.

In addition, Schaus will succeed Brennan as chairman on Dec. 31, 2012. Brennan will become a non-executive director of DFS Group and will remain chairman of LVMH-owned Starboard Cruise Services and Onboard Media.

In addition to Schaus' appointments, Michael Schriver, the company's president for Stores and Business Development, has been promoted to the newly created position of chief operating officer.

Antonio Belloni, a non-executive DFS Group director and the group managing director of LVMH said: "Ed has been a formidable leader at DFS. He and his team have created the most successful luxury travel retail operation in the world. Sales and profitability have seen outstanding growth over the last few years, and we have expanded our geographic focus from just the Asia-Pacific rim, with stores now spanning more than half the globe.

Schaus

"Philippe is the right person to assure that the success of DFS continues well into the future. He will further develop the DFS brand so that the experience we offer our customers remains at the forefront of luxury travel shopping," added Belloni.

Robert Miller, a founder of DFS and a member of the DFS board of directors, said of Brennan: "I have watched this company grow and evolve. Ed has brilliantly created a retail institution that can continue to thrive in the future. Philippe inherits a well-run ship and a superbly talented team—we look forward to his years at the helm as he brings the added value of his extensive luxury brand experience."

Raised in Luxembourg, Schaus began his career in 1987 at J.P. Morgan before joining The Boston Consulting Group GmbH in 1990. In 1992 he became International Commercial Director of the Porcelain Tableware Division at Villeroy&Boch before being promoted managing director for the division in 1999. He joined Louis Vuitton in 2003 as president of the Europe Zone and was appointed senior vice president international in 2006. Between 2009 and 2011 he was executive vice president of Louis Vuitton. Schaus joined DFS in July 2011 as group president of Merchandising and Marketing.

Brennan joined DFS from R.H. Macy in 1997 and rose to become its CEO in 1999 and added chairman to his responsibilities the following year.

Schriver joined DFS from R.H. Macy's in 1998. At DFS he has also been responsible for Merchandising and Distribution before his selection to run Store Operations in 2008 and, additionally, Business Development in 2011.

DFS Group was founded in Hong Kong in 1960 and has more than 200 airport concession stores in North America, Asia-Pacific airports, the Middle East and South Asia. The company has large downtown DFS Gallerias in Hawaii, Guam, Saipan, Okinawa, Hong Kong, Macao, Singapore, Bali, Sydney and Auckland. The company, headquartered in Hong Kong, has more than 7,000 employees and is majority owned by LVMH and minority-owned by companies associated with founder Robert Miller. ***(DFS)***

NMC to host free info sessions on July 25 and 27

Individuals interested in furthering their education and advancing their professional careers are encouraged to attend free information sessions hosted by the Northern Marianas College on July 25 and 27, 2012.

The first information session, which is open to all prospective students and community members, is on Wednesday, July 25, 2012, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm in Room D-1 at the college's As Terlaje campus.

The next information session, which is for working professionals (including all government and private sector employees) and those who wish to attend college after delaying enrollment (did not enter college in the same calendar year that he/she finished high school), will be on Friday, July 27, 2012, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm in Room D-1.

At both sessions, NMC faculty, staff, and students from the different degree and certificate programs at NMC, as well as Student Services representatives from counseling, financial aid, and admissions will be on hand to provide helpful information and answer questions.

At the second information session, other important topics will be presented, including the increase in weekend and night classes in order to accommodate working individuals who are not able to attend classes during the workweek. In addition, financial aid options will also be discussed. For instance, the college offers a 50-percent discount on tuition for government employees who are ineligible to receive other scholarships.

Those who attend either session will also qualify to have their application fee and their placement test fees waived for NMC's upcoming fall 2012 semester. This represents a savings of about $75.

The college is also reminding new students who have not applied for admission that the deadline to apply for admission to NMC for the fall 2012 semester is on Wednesday, July 31, 2012. For more information about NMC's fall 2012 registration and semester, visit www.nmcnet.edu.

NMC offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in education (emphasis on elementary education, early childhood education, special education, or rehabilitation and human services), associate degrees in business, business administration (emphasis on accounting, business management, or computer applications), liberal arts, nursing, natural resources management, criminal justice, and hospitality management. Moreover, it offers short-term certificate programs in different vocational, academic, and professional areas.

For more information about the information sessions and/or applying to NMC, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at (670) 234-5498 Ext. 1528/1540 or email oar@nmcnet.edu, or visit www.nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

Konfitma 2012 Exercise

Are local emergency responders prepared to deal with hazardous materials released during a terrorist-style attack in the CNMI?

The U.S. Army Pacific Weapons of Mass Destruction-Civil Support Team/CBRNE Enhanced Response Force Package Training and Readiness Division, in coordination with the CNMI Office of Homeland Security and the Emergency Management Office, will be holding full-scale exercise called "Konfitma" in support of CNMI responders and 94th, 93rd, 92nd, and joint CST training exercise.

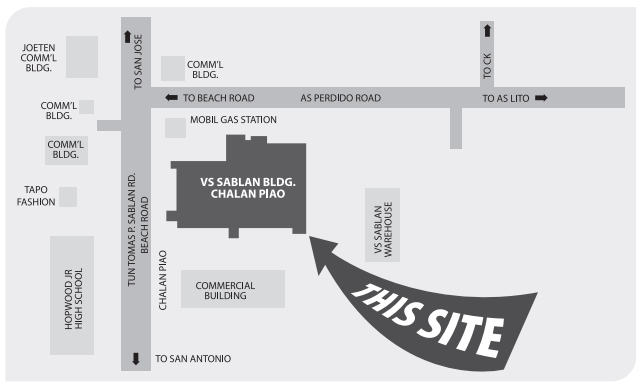
The exercise is scheduled on July 17-18 in several locations throughout Saipan and Tinian.

The purpose of Kofitma is to conduct a 36-hour all-hazard situational training exercise in order to create conditions to reinforce interoperability among local, state, federal, military, and private stakeholders. This purpose will serve as an interagency, multi-CST STX in the CNMI to maintain operational response procedures during an incident of national significance.

For more information call CNMI Emergency Operations Center dispatch at 237-8000, Homeland Security Office at 664-2216 or 911.

The community is reminded that this is an exercise and not to be alarmed. ***(PR)***

Sablan Enterprises, Inc
***dba* SABLAN REALTY**



With Three Great Commercial Building Locations in Chalan Piao, Chalan Kanoa, and San Jose

VS Sablan Plaza Indoor Bazaar in Chalan Piao
Now Open Daily 10:00AM to 7:00PM

Checkout **OUR INDOOR BAZAAR VENDORS**.
They Have what you need at the Right Price.
House Plants, Orchids & Housewares, Clothing and Accessories on Sale Every Day
Visit Melanie's Gift Shop, Morning Glory, KRM General Merchandise, & Asia Market
Sablan Building Chalan Kanoa
Home of **Pena House Boutique** & the **Bank of Saipan**

SABLAN REALTY
invites you to locate your business or residence at one of our great locations.
Maintenance Free. Common Areas & Grounds Cleaned Daily.
Commercial Space Rent at our San Jose & Chalan Piao Buildings. 2nd Floor units Available at San Jose for **50 Cents per Square Foot**.

At our **Chalan Kanoa Building**, we have an Apartment Unit available for rent on the 2nd and 3rd floor. Also available is an office space above Bank of Saipan (2nd floor). Call to see and inquire about monthly rent price. **Very Affordable.**

At **Our Chalan Piao Building, VSS PLAZA** we have rental space available on the **first floor** now at **65 cents per square foot** for units ranging from 700 sq ft to 1400 sq ft. Large 4500 square foot space on the second floor that would be ideal for a GYM or Dance Studio at **35 cents per square foot.**

2nd Floor Apartment at our Chalan Piao Location – 1BR 1 Bath 560 sq ft with Refrigerator $235.00 per month plus Utilities

3rd Floor Apartment for Rent at our Chalan Piao Location – 3 Bedroom, 2 Full Bath, Semi-Furnished with Refrigerator & Stove, 1470 sq ft, Save on Power – Great Breeze thru the Apartment. No Need Air Conditioning. **$500 per month plus Utilities**

For Lease – 53,500 Sq Meters Available for Lease in Kanat Tabla.
Ocean View. 31 years Remaining on Lease.
Asking 10.00 per square meter. Negotiable.
– 3,779 Sq Meters Available for Lease at Laulau Bay. 44 years Remaining on Lease.
Asking $25.00 per square meter. Negotiable.

Welcome H-MART
to our Chalan Piao Business location

Contact Tony Muna (Cell No. 888-9290 Email Address: plebechamp80@gmail.com) or Ben Sablan (Cell No. 898-9285 Email Address: vicente_sablan@yahoo.com) or Call 234-2585.

WE ARE COMMITTED TO STUDENT SUCCESS

For 60 years, Mount Carmel School has helped students succeed:

- Title I tutoring helps students with English and Math.
- Our students take top spots in interscholastic competitions like NFL, MSFL, PGFC, Mock Trial, We the People, sports, and the AG Cup.
- Our graduates enroll in prestigious institutions like MIT, NYU, UC Berkley, University of Michigan, USC, University of Washington, and West Point.
- Our alumni have emerged as prominent leaders in business, community, education, and government.
- AlumKnights become well-rounded, life-long learners.

JOIN THE LEGACY
BECOME A KNIGHT

$25.00 Application Fee extended until classes start on August 9.
234-6184 • www.mtcarmel-edu.net • galvin.deleonguerrero@gmail.com

Mount Carmel School 1952 SAIPAN • NORTHERN MARIANAS

(Left) 2011 NFL National Storytelling Champion, John Edward Elenzano '11
(Right) 2012 AG Cup Winner, Victoria Camacho '13

2012 CNMI Mock Trial Champions, MCS Mock Trial Knights

Business

Electric rates not falling along with fuel costs

NEW YORK (AP)—A plunge in the price of natural gas has made it cheaper for utilities to produce electricity. But the savings aren't translating to lower rates for customers. Instead, U.S. electricity prices are going up.

Electricity prices are forecast to rise slightly this summer. But any increase is noteworthy because natural gas, which is used to produce nearly a third of the country's power, is 43 percent cheaper than a year ago. A long-term downward trend in power prices could be starting to reverse, analysts say.

"It's caused us to scratch our heads," says Tyler Hodge, an analyst at the Energy Department who studies electricity prices.

The recent heat wave that gripped much of the country increased demand for power as families cranked up their air conditioners. And that may boost some June utility bills. But the nationwide rise in electricity prices is attributable to other factors, analysts say:

■ In many states, retail electricity rates are set by regulators every few years. As a result, lower power costs haven't yet made their way to customers.

■ Utilities often lock in their costs for natural gas and other fuels years in advance. That helps protect customers when fuel prices spike, but it prevents customers from reaping the benefits of a price drop.

■ The cost of actually delivering electricity, which accounts for 40 percent of a customer's bill on average, has been rising fast. That has eaten up any potential savings from the production of electricity.

Utilities are building transmission lines, installing new equipment and fixing up power plants after what analysts say has been years of underinvestment.

This may reverse what has been a gradual decline in retail electricity prices. Adjusted for inflation, the average retail electricity price has been drifting mostly lower since 1984, when it was 16.7 cents per kilowatt-hour.

"The ratepayer is going to have to foot the bill," says David Wright, vice chairman of the South Carolina Public Service Commission and president of the National Association of Regulatory Commissioners.

The average U.S. residential electricity price is expected to be 12.4 cents per kilowatt hour for the June-to-August period, up 2.4 percent from the same time last year. For the full year, electricity prices are expected to rise 2 percent.

In a typical summer month, that would mean an extra $3 on a residential bill, which includes the cost of generating the power and delivering it to a home, plus local taxes and fees.

Electricity pricing is complicated, and it differs from state to state. In states where power providers are allowed to compete, such as Texas, Pennsylvania and New York, customers can shop around for cheaper electricity, although delivery charges are still set by regulators.

Another California city opts for bankruptcy

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (AP)—In this sweltering Southern California city, officials tried to keep the budget in check by selling assets, cutting spending and asking public employees to take a hit as tax revenues dwindled.

But San Bernardino officials found themselves staring at a bleak prospect Tuesday night: Vendors hadn't been paid and cash was running out to make payroll, threatening to shut down the city altogether. That prompted elected officials in the city of 210,000 people to take the sudden move of authorizing the city attorney to seek federal bankruptcy protection, becoming the third California city poised to do so in less than two weeks.

"The city needs breathing room and the bottom line is we cannot default on payments to our employees without violating the law," City Attorney James Penman said ahead of the contentious vote, which took many by surprise and set the city apart from those elsewhere where such an action came only after months of consideration.

Bankruptcy experts say the decision in San Bernardino—some 60 miles east of Los Angeles—could sound an alarm to cities across the state and country that are grappling with weak property and sales tax revenues as their pension obligations continue to rise.

"People are waiting to see whether these are the exceptions to the rule or whether we have a new trend," said Jim Spiotto, a Chicago attorney who tracks municipal bankruptcies. "I do think it may be something of a wake-up call."

In some instances, cities like Harrisburg, Pa., and Mammoth Lakes, Calif., have considered bankruptcy as a way to cope with a specific debt. In contrast, cities like Stockton, Calif. and Central Falls, R.I., have sought bankruptcy to deal with an unbearable financial outlook due to rising costs and stagnant revenues, said Michael Sweet, a bankruptcy attorney with Fox Rothschild's San Francisco office. "Those are the ones you want to watch," Sweet said. "The cities that have a higher reliance on property tax revenue to support their general funds are the ones that are going to feel the most pain."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Judge lets startup relay live TV to iPhones in NYC

NEW YORK (AP)—A start-up company can continue to send live TV programming to iPhones and other mobile devices in the city despite objections from major broadcasters that say expansion can threaten the free broadcasting of events such as the Super Bowl, a judge ruled Wednesday. U.S. District Judge Alison Nathan said she understood how the service provided by the company, Aereo, may be unfair to broadcasters. But she said the law left her no choice but to reject a request by News Corp.'s Fox and other broadcasters to pull the plug on the company.

Portuguese doctors strike over austerity cuts

LISBON, Portugal (AP)—Portuguese doctors are staging a 48-hour strike to protest austerity measures they say are weakening the country's publicly-funded health service. The government has to reduce health spending as part of deep budget cuts promised in return for a (EURO)78 billion ($96 billion) bailout last year. Trade unions complain that some doctors are working excessive hours and are protesting against the increasing use of private companies to provide public services.

NBC in talks to buy Microsoft stake in MSNBC site

LOS ANGELES (AP)—NBC News is negotiating to buy Microsoft's portion of MSNBC.com, potentially severing a joint venture that begin nearly 17 years ago. An NBC News spokeswoman said Wednesday by email that "conversations are taking place" but "there is no deal." Microsoft declined to comment. The deal would break up a venture first announced in 1995. Back then, Microsoft Corp. said it would invest $220 million for a 50 percent stake in the MSNBC cable channel and its website.

FOR SALE OR LEASE

former Ladera International School

- Property contains 20,208 square meters.
- Improvements include classrooms and dormitory.
- Asking Price: $850,000.00

Contact: DIEGO BENAVENTE
REAL ESTATE AGENT
Office: (670) 235-7629
Email: diegobenavente@remaxsaipan.com

COMMERCIAL SPACES FOR RENT

BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN

- **FIRST FLOOR SPACE** - ideal for retail outlet including merchandisers, move in ready. Includes toilet and lavatory with adjacent snack counter. Approximately 1044 sqft. ***$650.00 per month plus utilities.***
- **FIRST FLOOR SPACE** - Beauty Shop and Dress Shop, move in ready. Approximate space 1044 sqft. Includes two (2) hairdressing space, waiting area, shampoo area, toilet and lavatory. Sewing, cutting and working area for dress shop and display showcaces. Snacks counter available. Also available for rent or purchase – Beauty Shop and Dress shop equipment and supplies. ***Basic rent per month $750.00 per month plus utilities.***
- **FIRST FLOOR SPACE** - great for studio! Includes reception area, double door conference room with great flooring and open work area. Also includes toilet and lavatory. Approximate 1044 sqft. ***$650.00 per month plus utilities.***
- **FIRST FLOOR OFFICE SPACE** – Spacious reception and waiting area, carpet flooring, large working/ storage space. Large private executive office with own toilet facilities - can spaciously fit a sitting area and conference table. ***$800.00 per month plus utilities.***
- **SECOND FLOOR OFFICE SPACE** - Ocean view with approximate 1600sqft space. Includes two (2) toilet facilities. Ideal Tour or Travel Agency operations.

APARMENT FOR RENT

BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN

- **2 BEDROOM, 1 BATHROOM** – 600sqft, furnished bedrooms, living and dining room and refrigerator. ***$275.00 per month plus utilities.***
- **ROOM FOR RENT** – Spacious room with kitchen , shower and toilet facilities. ***$125.00 per month including utilities.***

GUALO RAI

- **3 BEDROOM, 1 BATHROOM** – Fully furnished apartment. Safe neighborhood. ***$550.00 per month plus utilities.***
- **3 BEDROOM, 2 BATHROOM** – Fully furnished, spacious unit with closet spaces. Oceanview – second floor. Safe neighborhood. ***$600.00 per month plus utilities.***

Contact Frank Cabrera Cell No. 287-5810
Email address: bong@pticomcom or
call 235-1414/235-9898

Nation

Romney faces NAACP, booed for hitting 'Obamacare'

HOUSTON (AP)—Unflinching before a skeptical NAACP crowd, Mitt Romney declared Wednesday he'd do more for African-Americans than Barack Obama, the nation's first black president. He drew jeers when he lambasted the Democrat's policies.

"If you want a president who will make things better in the African-American community, you are looking at him," Romney told the group's annual convention. Pausing as some in the crowd heckled, he added, "You take a look!"

"For real?" yelled someone in the crowd.

The reception was occasionally rocky though generally polite as the Republican presidential candidate sought to woo a Democratic bloc that voted heavily for Obama four years ago and is certain to do so again. Romney was booed when he vowed to repeal "Obamacare"—the Democrat's signature health care measure—and the crowd interrupted him when he accused Obama of failing to spark a more robust economic recovery.

"I know the president has said he will do those things. But he has not. He cannot. He will not," Romney said as the crowd's murmurs turned to groans.

At other points, Romney earned scattered clapping for his promises to create jobs and improve education. In an interview with Fox News after the speech, Romney said he had expected the negative reaction to some of his comments. "I am going to give the same message to the NAACP that I give across the country which is that Obamacare is killing jobs," he said.

Four months before the election, Romney's appearance at the NAACP convention was a direct, aggressive appeal for support from across the political spectrum in what polls show is a close contest. Romney doesn't expect to win a majority of black voters—95 percent backed Obama in 2008—but he's trying to show independent and swing voters that he's willing to reach out to diverse audiences, while demonstrating that his campaign and the Republican Party he leads are inclusive.

The stakes are high. Romney's chances in battleground states such as North Carolina, Virginia, Ohio and Pennsylvania—which have huge numbers of blacks who helped Obama win four years ago—will improve if he can cut into the president's advantage by persuading black voters to support him or if they stay home on Election Day.

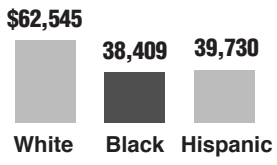
As for Romney's contention that his policies would help "families of any color" more than Obama's, White House spokesman Jay Carney said the president has pursued ideas that help support and expand the middle class after a devastating recession, and that as part of that black Americans and other minorities have benefited.

Obama spoke to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People during the 2008 campaign, as did his Republican opponent that year, Sen. John McCain. The president has dispatched Vice President Joe Biden to address the group on Thursday.

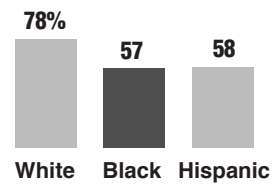
How U.S. blacks compare

Blacks are 13 percent of the U.S. population. How they compare to other groups by selected economic and societal measures:

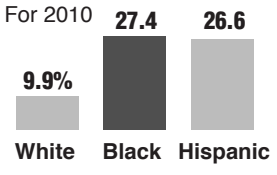
Median income
For families, 2009



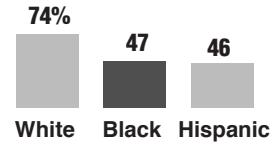
High school grads
Graduation rates, 2008



Poverty rate
For 2010



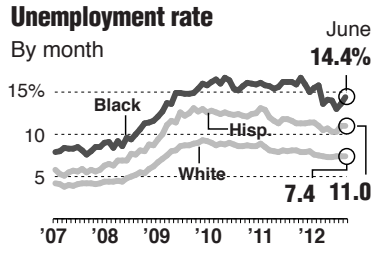
Home ownership
For 2009



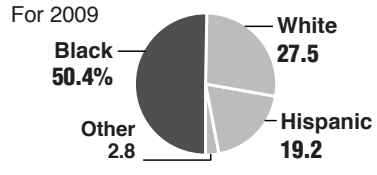
The recession's impact
Median household net worth (assets minus debt)

	2005	2009
White	$134,992	113,149
Black	12,124	5,677
Hispanic	18,359	6,325

Unemployment rate
By month



HIV diagnoses
For 2009



Prison inmates
Total 2009 prison population, 2.3 million

	Men	Women
White	693,800	92,100
Black	841,000	64,800
Hispanic	442,000	32,300

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Pew Research Center, Alliance for Excellent Education, Bureau of Labor Statistics, University of Michigan National Poverty Center, U.S. Bureau of Prisons, avert.org Graphic: Judy Treible © 2012 MCT

Slap to Obama: GOP House votes to kill health law

WASHINGTON (AP)—Pressing an election-year point, Republicans pushed yet another bill through the House on Wednesday to repeal the nation's two-year-old health care law, a maneuver that forced Democrats to choose between President Barack Obama's signature domestic achievement and a public that is persistently skeptical of its value.

The vote was 244-185, with five Democratic defectors siding with Republicans.

By Republican count, the vote marked the 33rd time in 18 months that the tea party-infused GOP majority has tried to eliminate, defund or otherwise scale back the program—opponents scornfully call it "Obamacare"—since the GOP took control of the House.

Repeal this year by Congress is doomed, since the Democratic-controlled Senate will never agree.

But Illinois Rep. Peter Roskam said before joining other Republicans in Wednesday's House vote: "Here's the good news. The voters get the last word in November. Stay tuned."

Nor was the vote in the House the only act of political theater during the day as campaign concerns increasingly crowded out bipartisan attempts at lawmaking in the Capitol.

One day after a campaigning Obama called on Congress to pass his proposal to extend tax cuts on all but the highest wage earners, Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky offered to allow an immediate vote. "I can't see why Democrats wouldn't want to give him the chance" to sign the bill, he said.

Paterno, in letter, defended Penn St. football

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP)—Joe Paterno defended his football program's integrity in a 7-month-old letter released Wednesday, a day ahead of a report that could forever mar his legacy.

In the letter, written shortly before his death and confirmed as legitimate by his family, Paterno rejected the notion that Jerry Sandusky's sexual abuse of boys amounted to a "football scandal" or in any way tarnished the accomplishments of his players or Penn State's reputation as a whole.

The results of Penn State's internal investigation into the Sandusky scandal are set to be released Thursday in a report that should answer many of the troubling questions swirling around one of the worst scandals in sports history.

A team led by former federal judge and FBI ex-director Louis Freeh interviewed hundreds of people to learn how the university responded to warning signs that its once-revered former assistant football coach—a man who helped Paterno win two national titles for a university that touted "success with honor"—was a serial child molester.

Sandusky was convicted on 45 criminal counts last month at a trial that included gut-wrenching testimony from eight young men who said he abused them as boys. By contrast, the Freeh report, to be released online at 9 a.m. Thursday, will focus on Penn State and what it did—or didn't do—to protect children. Eight months after Sandusky's arrest, it remains unclear how top university officials handled reports dating back at least 14 years that Sandusky was behaving inappropriately with boys he met through his charity, bringing them on campus and forcing them into sex acts.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-12-020

SUPPLY & DELIVERY PREPAID METERS

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Supply and Delivery of Remote Disconnect Prepaid Meters for CUC Power Division, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash or check, in the amount of $100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-12-020, Supply & Delivery of Remote Disconnect Prepaid Meters"*, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM, (ChST) on July 24, 2012** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika.muna@cucgov.org or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract.

The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **July 20, 2012** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email-manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Alfredo Palattao, Power Division Engineer via email alfred.palattao@cucgov.org and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Admin. Support Assistant, Procurement & Supply – mika.muna@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

/S/ ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-12-021

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF DRINKING WATER & CUBE ICE

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the supply and delivery of bottled drinking water & cube ice for CUC Administration and Operation Division Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash or check, in the amount of $100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-12-021, Supply & Delivery of Drinking Water & Cube Ice", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM, (ChST) on August 9, 2012** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika.muna@cucgov.org or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and wave any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

All inquires must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **July 23, 2012** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email-manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Admin. Support Assistant, Procurement & Supply – mika.muna@cucgov.org

/s/ ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-12-022

SUPPLY OF FUEL FOR LIGHT VEHICLE AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms to supply fuel for CUC's light vehicle and heavy equipment on Saipan, Tinian and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash or check, in the amount of $100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-12-022, Supply of Fuel for Light Vehicle & Heavy Equipment", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM, (ChST) on August 14, 2012** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika.muna@cucgov.org or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and wave any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

All inquires must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **July 23, 2012** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email-manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Admin. Support Assistant, Procurement & Supply – mika.muna@cucgov.org

/s/ ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Asia

US and China square off over South China Sea

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—The Obama administration pressed Beijing on Thursday to accept a code of conduct for resolving territorial disputes in the resource-rich South China Sea, a difficult U.S. mediation effort that has faced resistance from the communist government. It has endeared the U.S., however, to once-hostile countries in Southeast Asia.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton will meet with Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi on the sidelines of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' annual conference, where several governments have expressed worry about China's expansive maritime claims. Tensions have threatened to boil over in recent months, with a standoff between Chinese and Philippine ships and sharp disagreements between China and Vietnam.

China claims virtually the entire area and has created an entirely new city to administer it, sparking deep concern from rival claimants. The sea hosts about a third of the world's cargo traffic, has rich fishing grounds and is believed to store vast oil and gas reserves.

"The United States has no territorial claims there and we do not take sides in disputes about territorial or maritime boundaries," Clinton told foreign ministers gathered in Cambodia's capital. "But we do have an interest in freedom of navigation, the maintenance of peace and stability, respect for international law and unimpeded lawful commerce in the South China Sea."

Asian countries should "work collaboratively and diplomatically to resolve disputes without coercion, without intimidation, without threats and without use of force," Clinton added, according to remarks prepared for delivery later Thursday.

ASEAN's 10 members announced earlier this week that they have drafted a set of rules governing maritime rights and navigation, and procedures for when governments disagree. But China is not a member of the group and hasn't agreed to anything.

The ASEAN countries are presenting their proposal to China at this week's conference in Cambodia's capital, though Beijing will probably want to water down any language that ties its hands.

For the United States, the difficult diplomacy ahead could be a major test of the Obama administration's efforts to "pivot" American power toward the world's most populous continent. Just speaking out on the subject already has helped the U.S. deepen ties with Vietnam, and relations are warming with other governments in the region.

In historic visit, Clinton reaches out to Laos

VIENTIANE, Laos (AP)—Decades after the U.S. gave Laos a horrific distinction as the world's most heavily bombed nation per person, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton pledged Wednesday to help get rid of millions of unexploded bombs that still pockmark the impoverished country—and still kill.

The U.S. dropped more than 2 million tons of bombs on the North Vietnamese ally during its "secret war" between 1964 and 1973—about a ton of ordnance for each Laotian man, woman and child. That exceeded the amount per person dropped on Germany and Japan together in World War II.

Four decades later, American weapons are still claiming lives. When the war ended, about a third of some 270 million cluster bombs dropped on Laos had failed to detonate. More than 20,000 people have been killed in Laos since then by ordnance, according to its government, and agricultural development has been stymied.

Clinton, gauging whether a nation the U.S. pummeled in wartime can evolve into a new foothold of American influence in Asia, met with the prime minister and foreign minister, part of a weeklong diplomatic tour of Southeast Asia. The goal is to bolster America's standing in some of the fastest growing markets of the world, and counter China's expanding economic, diplomatic and military dominance of the region.

Clinton said she and Laotian leaders "traced the arc of our relationship from addressing the tragic legacies of the past to finding a way to being partners of the future."

Thirty-seven years since the end of America's long war in Indochina, Laos is the latest test case of the Obama administration's efforts to "pivot" U.S. foreign policy away from the long wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. The efforts follow a long period of estrangement between Washington and a former Cold War-era foe, and come as U.S. relations also warm with countries such as Myanmar and Vietnam.

ASIAN BRIEFS

SKorea says it may abandon research whaling plan

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea says it may scrap research whaling plans that have been widely criticized. Fisheries official Kang Joon-suk said Wednesday that Seoul may drop the plans if it finds ways to study whales without killing them. The government said last week that it would allow the killing of whales for research because fishermen were complaining that whales were eating large amounts of fish.

Afghans protest recent public killing of woman

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Dozens of men and women took to the streets of Kabul on Wednesday to protest the recent public slaying of an Afghan woman accused of adultery whose gruesome, execution-style killing was captured on video. The footage, which surfaced recently, shows the woman being shot multiple times about 10 days ago in Parwan province, north of the Afghan capital. The gunman was encouraged by people who stood nearby, smiling and cheering. Police in Parwan said the Taliban were behind the killing, but the insurgents have denied they ordered or carried out the slaying.

NKorea TV shows 'Rocky,' plays 'My Way'

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—North Korea is tapping into some American-style movie inspiration by showing the film icon Rocky Balboa pounding his Soviet rival. State TV on Wednesday ran taped footage of young leader Kim Jong Un at a concert that played a rendition of the famous "Rocky" theme song and showed clips of the pumped-up American film character boxing against his Cold War rival Ivan Drago. Appearing to glorify a popular American entertainment icon is an unusual move for Pyongyang, which regularly unleashes invective at its former wartime enemy.

Message Of Appreciation

We, the family of the late

†Miguel S. Demapan

wish to express our sincerest appreciation for the outpouring of prayers, support, and generosity that you have shown us during this difficult time in our lives. We have truly been blessed and humbled by your presence at the nightly rosaries, morning masses, and most especially at the funeral mass. We are also thankful to Mike's friends, families, and colleagues who traveled from afar to share their time with us and pay their last respects. Although we are still mourning, the load that we carry has been lightened by the support of the entire CNMI community. You have forever touched our hearts and we will never forget the lasting impact you have made on our lives.

Daily mass is offered at Mount Carmel Cathedral at 6:00AM. Please join us on the final day of morning mass on Monday, July 16, 2012.

Thank you, Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Olomwaay, and Salamat Po

God bless you all.

Frances T. Demapan, Children, & Family

World

Opposition: Syria's Iraq ambassador has defected

ISTANBUL (AP)—The Syrian ambassador to Iraq has defected, denouncing President Bashar Assad in a TV statement Wednesday, becoming the most senior diplomat to abandon the regime during a bloody 16-month uprising.

Nawaf Fares, a former provincial governor, is the second prominent Syrian to break with the regime in less than a week. Brig. Gen. Manaf Tlass, an Assad confidant and son of a former defense minister, fled Syria last week, buoying Western powers and anti-regime activists, who expressed hope that other high-ranking defections would follow.

The high-level defections could be a sign that Assad's tightly wrapped regime is unraveling, but it was too early to be certain. There have been thousands of defections in the past, mostly low-level army conscripts, but until now no one as senior as the general and the ambassador had fled.

In a statement broadcast on the Arabic satellite channel Al-Jazeera, Fares said he was resigning and joining the opposition. Wearing a dark suit and reading from a prepared text in what appeared to be a large office, Fares harshly criticized Assad.

AP

In this July 3, 2008 file photo, Nawaf Fares, center, governor of the Quneitra, Syria, briefs a U.N. delegation visiting the city of Quneitra in the Golan Heights to investigate Israeli practices in occupied Arab lands.

"I'm announcing from this moment on that I'm siding with the revolution in Syria," he said, according to the Al-Jazeera translation into English. He called on all Syrians to abandon Assad.

"Where is the honor in killing your countrymen? Where is the national allegiance? The nation is all the people, not one person in particular," he said. "The allegiance is to the people, not to a dictator who kills his people."

It was not known where or when Fares recorded the statement.

Appointed to the Baghdad post four years ago, Fares was the first Syrian ambassador to Iraq in 26 years. Like Tlass, he is a member of the privileged Sunni elite in a regime dominated by Assad's minority Alawite sect.

Khaled Khoja, a member of the opposition Syrian National Council who is based in Istanbul, said Fares was "moving toward Turkey." Asked for details, Khoja said the information came from his own sources on the ground in Iraq.

There was no immediate comment from either Iraq or Syria. An operator who answered the phone at the Syrian Embassy in Baghdad said there was nobody at the embassy. When asked if the ambassador is currently in Iraq, the operator said he did not know.

White House spokesman Jay Carney said the U.S. had no confirmation of the defection as of Wednesday afternoon. But he said recent high-level defections from the Assad regime were "a welcome development."

"That is an indication of the fact that support for Assad is crumbling," Carney said.

State Department spokesman Patrick Ventrell said that if true, Fares would be the first senior diplomat from the regime to defect.

The conflict in Syria has defied every international attempt to bring peace. Although the Assad government's crackdown has turned the Syrian president into an international pariah, he still has the support of strong allies such as Russia, Iran and China.

A prominent Syrian opposition leader said Wednesday during a visit to Moscow that Russia's resistance to international intervention in the conflict was bringing misery and "suffering" to the violence-torn country.

Outgoing leader says Islamists won't rule Libya

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—Liberal parties held a lead Wednesday in partial results from Libya's first parliamentary election, on the same day that the head of the interim government stated his country would not be ruled by Islamists.

Up to now Islamists have taken leadership roles in other countries that experienced Arab Spring revolts, like Egypt and Tunisia.

The overthrow of longtime ruler Moammar Gadhafi left Libya without a cohesive regime. Gadhafi, who was captured and killed in October, opposed democracy in Libya and ruled virtually by himself. Saturday's election was a major step toward reform.

Libyans went to the polls to elect a National Assembly that will name a new government.

Partial results released by the election commission show that the Alliance of National Forces, a coalition of liberals led by former Prime Minister Mahmoud Jibril, maintains a lead. Jibril was the international face of the opposition during the uprising last year.

According to the official results, the liberal alliance finished far ahead of the Muslim Brotherhood's Justice and Construction Party in the eastern city of Benghazi, the country's second largest and the birthplace of the uprising. It also beat out Islamist parties in western cities as far away as the country's border with Tunisia.

Some 2.7 million Libyans, making up more than 60 percent of eligible voters, cast their ballots for the first time in more than five decades on Saturday in the first nationwide vote since the downfall of Gadhafi.

"What happened in Libya was a miracle," National Transitional Council chief Mustafa Abdul-Jalil told The Associated Press. "People's choices of the assembly are excellent and nationalist."

Despite the early signs of democracy in Libya, Abdul-Jalil cautioned that Libya will need at least five years to move beyond the legacy of tribal warfare and rogue militias left in the wake of the uprising.

WORLD BRIEFS

Sorrow in Srebrenica: Bosnians bury 520 victims

SREBRENICA, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP)—The pain that seared Srebrenica 17 years ago burned fresh Wednesday as tens of thousands of Bosnian Muslims came to bury their dead in the town whose name is now synonymous with genocide. In a ceremony broadcast live on television across the country, 520 coffins were placed in the ground as tears flowed like water from family and friends. On the anniversary of Europe's worst massacre since World War II, 30,000 Muslims traveled to a memorial center in Srebrenica to honor the thousands of Muslim men and boys slaughtered in July 1995 by Serb forces.

UK: 3,500 more troops assigned to Olympics

LONDON (AP)—Britain put an extra 3,500 military personnel on standby Wednesday to protect venues at the London Olympics, after a private contractor said it may not be able to provide enough security guards on time. The contractor, G4S, had been enlisted to provide the bulk of the 13,200 private security guards across 100 venues, but said in a statement that it may not hit its target because of problems recruiting and training staff. In a statement, the government ministry in charge of crime and security said the troops would be ready to be deployed to cover any shortfall.

Message of Appreciation

We the family of

†Jose Pangelinan Mafnas

Lovingly known as "Cheling or Chief"

Would like to extend our most heartfelt appreciation to our relatives and friends who surrounded us with their love, prayers, kindness and support.

Your thoughtful gesture and kind words have consoled our hearts beyond our expectation in such difficult times. Your presence at the Nightly Masses, Holy Rosary and most especially at the Mass of Christian Burial was very comforting.

We will always remember you in our hearts and prayers.

"May God Bless You All"

Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Olomwaay, Salamat Po.

The Family

Vicente "Ben" Villagomez Torres

September 17,1941 - June 13, 2012

The family of the late Vicente Villagomez Torres Extend our sincerest gratitude to all our families and friends for your time, support and generosity when we laid our beloved Ben to eternal rest.

Your prayers, presence and kind expressions of sympathy will always be remembered.

Thank you to all who touched our lives and most especially the life of our beloved Ben. And may his memory remain strong in our lives as we continue to carry out his teachings and lessons.

Un Dangkulu na Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

In Gratitude

Primitiva "Bibang" Deleon Guerrero Torres, Children and Family

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Maine filmmaker chats with younger version of self

PORTLAND, Maine (AP)—A video created by a Maine filmmaker that shows him talking to a younger version of himself thanks to creative editing is making its way across the Internet. Jeremiah McDonald of Portland put together VHS footage of himself when he was 12 years old and juxtaposed it with a video of himself as a 32-year-old actor and filmmaker, creating a conversation between the two that's both snarky and nostalgic. Posted on YouTube on Thursday, it had received more than 1.6 million views within 24 hours. The video shows the modern McDonald sipping booze while talking to his squirmy younger self about his cartoon drawings as a child, a Star Wars action figure, their pets, the Internet and the British science fiction TV show "Doctor Who."

Would-be burglar gets tangled in window blinds

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—Police say a would-be burglar was halted by unlikely obstacles—window blinds. KRQE-TV reports that police found Thomas Molina on Sunday tangled in some window blinds at Central New Mexico Community College in Albuquerque after police received a call about a break-in. Police say the 38-year-old Molina told police he was looking for computer hardware. Molina was arrested and charged with burglary and breaking and entering. He is being held on a $10,000 bond. It was unclear if he had an attorney.

Man accidentally eats steel bristle during BBQ

TACOMA, Wash. (AP)—A Tacoma man needed emergency surgery after accidentally eating a steel bristle from a grill brush he used during a barbeque. KING 5 reports that Adam Wojtanowicz went to the hospital Sunday complaining of abdominal pain that wouldn't go away despite his taking medication. Doctors found a metal bristle on a CT scan and performed surgery to get it out. Wojtanowicz says he recently hosted a cookout, and he thinks a steel bristle from his grill brush fell onto his steak. He says he apparently swallowed the metal without realizing it. The Centers for Disease Control says it knows of at least six people who have recently suffered similar, potentially fatal, injuries. It doesn't blame a particular brand or type of brush. Wojtanowicz is expected to recover.

AT&T drops lawsuit, Mass. man says he has issues

IPSWICH, Mass. (AP)—AT&T has dropped its lawsuit against a Massachusetts businessman over a $1 million phone bill he says resulted from a hacker's fraud. Ipswich resident Michael Smith is owner of the small manufacturing company Todd Tool & Abrasive Systems. He said Tuesday he's not dropping a counterclaim for the costs to defend himself in the legal battle his lawyers call unfair. The telecommunications company says it has dismissed all claims and is "sympathetic" to Smith's situation and remains "open to resolving his concerns." Smith says someone hacked into his company's phone system in 2009 and made nearly $900,000 in calls to Somalia. AT&T Inc. sued Smith for $1.15 million for the calls plus interest. His lawyers say the company failed to notify him about the suspicious calls before billing him.

'Boared' piggy goes to bank in Austria

VIENNA (AP)—Piggy bank has a new meaning in a town east of Vienna after a surveillance camera caught a wild pig on a night foray to a local branch of one of Austria's financial institutions. The Austria Press Agency reports that the inquisitive porker managed to push open a locked sliding glass door of a bank in Hainburg an der Donau to make its way inside. After looking around, it left the same way it came without causing significant damage, with the door locking behind it. APA, in its report Wednesday, said bank officials became suspicious last month after a member of the early morning cleaning staff noticed large smear marks on the door. A review of surveillance footage identified the unusual visitor.

Raccoons chase, attack Washington state woman

LAKEWOOD, Wash. (AP)—A Washington state woman says she was attacked and bitten by raccoons after her dog chased several of the animals up a tree. Michaela Lee had just finished jogging in Lakewood's Fort Steilacoom Park on Monday when her dog got loose. When she went to grab the dog's leash, several other raccoons started to scratch her legs, chased her for about 75 feet, knocked her down and bit her. Neighbor Michael Parks tells The News Tribune he heard Lee screaming and saw her on the ground. He called 911. Two other neighbors also went to help. Lee says her American dingo dog began barking and helped drive the raccoons off. The 28-year-old Lee was treated for about 16 puncture wounds and had numerous scratches.

Couple tries for year of daily Disneyland visits

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—It seems like a dream as flighty as Tinkerbell and as quirky as Mr. Toad's Wild Ride.

Yet a Southern California couple have passed the halfway mark in their quest to visit Disneyland every day this year.

"We joke around that we're here more than the cast members are," Jeff Reitz said Tuesday.

Reitz, 39, of Huntington Beach, and Tonya Mickesh, 45, of Lake Forest were both unemployed when she came up with the idea of becoming Magic Kingdom marathoners, Reitz said.

As annual passholders, they could go to the Anaheim theme park and its adjoining California Adventure as often as they wished. So they decided to go all 366 days in the leap year, beginning on New Year's Day.

The idea was to "put a smile on our faces instead of sitting at home and being bummed out about being out of work," Reitz said.

A Disneyland pass that would grant a visitor access every day of the year costs $649, according to the park's website.

Mickesh now has a full-time job but Reitz said she still joins him in the evenings. They celebrated her birthday there this past weekend and on Sunday passed day 183—the halfway mark.

AP

In this Sunday, July 1, 2012, photo, Jeff Reitz and Tonya Mickesh pose for a picture at the halfway point, day 183, in their mission to visit Disneyland in Anaheim, Calif., every day this year.

Time again, the couple have strolled down Main Street, goggled at the fireworks and laughed at quips on the Jungle Cruise. They often meet up with park-loving friends and have even given directions to lost tourists, Reitz said in a telephone interview.

"I still get a charge," he said.

"I've been going in the afternoon and evening," Reitz said. "Last night I was just going to go for three or four hours and I ended up shutting the park down."

His favorite ride is the Matterhorn Bobsleds, although he said new cars are a tighter squeeze for his 6-foot-2 frame.

"I joke around that I basically have to fold my knees over my ears," he said.

Reitz said he still finds out new things about the Disneyland and California Adventure parks. He hasn't even eaten at all the restaurants. Although he has had temporary jobs, the former Air Force firefighter and administrative office worker is currently unemployed and Reitz said he cannot afford some of the fancier fare, such as the $22 cheeseburgers at the Carthay Circle Restaurant.

Reitz said he needs to find employment, though, to afford a new annual pass at a higher price when his current pass expires on Dec. 11.

His dream job, he said, would be working at Disneyland. But for now, he's happy being a constant visitor.

"We are fortunate to have such ardent fans and happy to be such an important part of Tonya and Jeff's lives," Disneyland Resort spokeswoman Suzi Brown said in an email to The Associated Press.

Big upset at cherry-pit spitting contest in Mich.

EAU CLAIRE, Mich. (AP)—Ronn Matt's wife encouraged him to enter the annual International Cherry Pit Spitting Championship in southwestern Michigan on Saturday.

It's a good thing she did.

The 46-year-old Chicagoan pulled a big upset, winning the contest in his initial try and becoming the first champion not named Krause or Lessard in 20 years.

Matt spit a pit 69 feet at Tree-Mendus Fruit Farm near Eau Claire, just north of the Indiana border.

Owner Herb Teichman launched the tournament on a lark nearly four decades ago. It now attracts competitors from the U.S. and beyond, and has six divisions, including dignitaries.

Since 1992, members of the Krause and Lessard families have dominated the event. Brian "Young Gun" Krause of Dimondale holds the world-record spit—more than 93 feet—and had won the past two years. But the 34-year-old finished fifth Saturday with a spit of 52 feet, 10 inches.

Krause's father, Rick "Pellet Gun" Krause, came in second with a spit of 61 feet, 2 inches. And Brian Krause's brother, Matt, earned a third-place finish with his 60-foot, 11-inch spit.

The tournament typically is timed to the start of the cherry harvest, but competition spokeswoman Lynne Sage said that due to an unusually warm spring, it's already complete. Saturday's installment was held in sweltering temperatures.

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff, vs. REX I. PALACIOS, Defendant.	**Civil Action No. 12-0010 AMENDED SUMMONS**

AMENDED SUMMONS

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT: REX I. PALACIOS

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND NOTIFIED to file any answer you wish to make to the COMPLAINT within twenty (20) days after service of this AMENDED SUMMONS upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to Robert Tenorio Torres, Attorney at Law, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, or as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court of the above-entitled Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Office of the Clerk of Court, CNMI Superior Court, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950-0307. It may be prepared and signed for you by your attorney and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or by mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this AMENDED SUMMONS, judgment by default by default pursuant to the court rules of the above-entitled Court may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

SO ORDERED on this 20th day of June, 2012.

/s/CLERK OF COURT

F. MATTHEW SMITH
LAW OFFICE OF F. MATTHEW SMITH, LLC
2nd Floor, MIC Building,
Chalan Monsignor Guerrero
San Jose Village
P.O. Box 501127
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone Nos.: (670) 234-7455 / 234- 7427
Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

Attorneys for Plaintiff,.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, Plaintiff, -vs- **JOAQUIN H. BORJA and SOOK M. BORJA,** Defendant(s).	**Civil Action No. 11-0178 SUMMONS**

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT:
SOOK M. BORJA

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within twenty (20) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Law Office of F. Matthew Smith, LLC, attorney for Plaintiff, whose address is Post Office Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of Court at the Guma Hustistia Complex, Susupe, Saipan MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above Court:

Dated this 20th day of July 2011.

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Commonwealth Superior Court

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES for the Saipan International Airport Roof Drainage and A/C System Improvements AIP No. 3-69-0002-62/65/67 (CPA-SA-003-09)

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms to perform construction management services for the Saipan International Airport Roof Drainage and A/C System Improvements Project, AIP Nos. 3-69-0002-62/65/67 (Project No. CPA-SA-003-09), Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification from firms should address the areas generally described below:

A. Overall construction management experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;

B. Specialized experience and technical competence in the type of work required and previous experience with projects similar in scope;

C. Key personnel's professional qualifications, experience and availability for the proposed services; their reputation and professional integrity and competence; and their knowledge of FAA regulations, policies and procedures;

D. Quality of projects previously undertaken and capability to complete projects without having major cost escalations or overruns;

E. Past performance on contracts including cost control, quality of work and current workload and demonstrated ability to meet schedules and deadlines;

F. Firms must have a valid CNMI Business License and the ability to perform the construction management activities in the CNMI.

Interested firms must submit one (1) original and four (4) copies each of their statements of professional qualifications for each service offered no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, July 27, 2012.**

Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330. Only firms who have established an office in the Commonwealth and a valid business license will be considered.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to: Mr. Edward M. Deleon Guerrero
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Executive Director

Date: June 28, 2012

Science & Technology

NYC bringing wireless Internet to pay phone kiosks

New Yorkers have been making fewer and fewer calls on the city's 12,000 pay phones, yet the kiosks will likely be getting heavier use soon.

The city announced Wednesday a pilot program that has converted 10 kiosks in Manhattan, Brooklyn and Queens into free Wi-Fi Internet hotspots. The plan is to expand the program to all 12,000 pay phones in the city.

"We are taking an existing infrastructure and leveraging it up to provide more access to information," said Rahul Merchant, the city's chief information officer, at a kiosk located at Broadway and 58th Street.

Merchant said the program is part of Mayor Michael Bloomberg's effort to help New Yorkers and the 50 million people who visit the city each year stay connected.

The pay phones remain, but a router is installed at each kiosk. The Internet signal extends a couple of hundred feet, Merchant said.

Users simply approach the kiosk with an Internet device and log on. No password is needed. They can connect for as long as they need, 24 hours a day.

Merchant said the city's plan is not to remove pay phones, but to improve them. The Van Wagner and Titan outdoor advertising companies, which own more than 9,000 kiosks combined, are working with the city to add the hotspot devices and are paying about $2,000 for each setup, said Peter Izzo, Van Wagner's senior operations executive.

"With cellphone companies limiting 3G and 4G access, we saw a growing need for free Wi-Fi," Izzo said.

Cellphones have been driving down pay phone use for years, but Izzo said there were 25 million pay phone calls made in New York City last year.

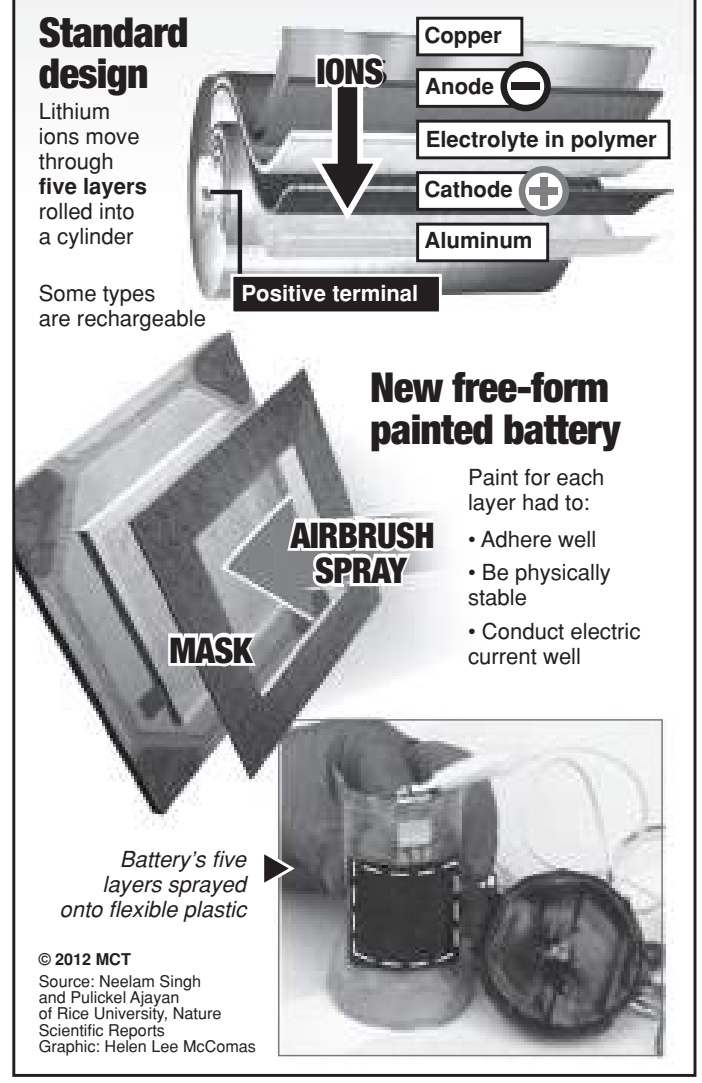
Izzo said the companies hope traffic to the hot spots—and the advertising there—will generate more advertising profit.

The city will ask the public for feedback and take it into account as the program expands. ***(AP)***

Science Matters

Spray-on lithium battery

A thin lithium-ion battery can be bent into various shapes, but researchers found a way to spray paint one onto any surface.



© 2012 MCT

Source: Neelam Singh and Pulickel Ajayan of Rice University, Nature Scientific Reports
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas

Source: Google to pay $22.5M fine in privacy case

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Google is poised to pay a $22.5 million fine to resolve allegations that it broke a privacy promise by secretly tracking millions of Web surfers who rely on Apple's Safari browser, according to a person familiar with settlement.

The person who spoke to The Associated Press Tuesday asked not to be identified because the fine has yet to be approved by the Federal Trade Commission, which oversees online privacy issues in the U.S.

If approved by the FTC's five commissioners, the $22.5 million penalty would be the largest the agency has ever imposed on a single company.

Even so, the fine won't cause Google Inc. much financial pain. With $49 billion in the bank, the Internet's search and advertising leader is expected to generate revenue this year of about $46 billion, which means the company should bring in enough money to cover the fine in slightly more than four hours.

But the circumstances surrounding the case may renew questions about the sincerity of Google's "Don't Be Evil" motto and raise doubts about the company's credibility as it grapples with broader regulatory investigations into whether it has been abusing its influential position on the Internet to stifle competition.

"We do set the highest standards of privacy and security for our users," Google said in a statement Tuesday. The company, which is based in Mountain View, Calif., emphasized the tracking technology inserted into the Safari browser didn't collect any personal information.

Google will not acknowledge any wrongdoing under the proposed settlement, according to the person familiar with the terms.

The FTC declined to comment Tuesday.

The proposed settlement was first reported by The Wall Street Journal.

The FTC opened its investigation five months ago after a researcher at Stanford University published a study revealing that Google Inc. had overridden Safari safeguards that are supposed to prevent outside parties from monitoring Web surfing activity without a user's permission.

WORLD RESORT

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPEN DATE:	July 13, 2012	POSITION:	Guest Relations Officer
CLOSE DATE:	July 20, 2012	SALARY:	Minimum Wage/Negotiable

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent. Proficiency in Japanese Language highly preferred. Minimum two (2) years in hotel front desk or concierge services strongly preferred. Must have excellent people skills, willingness to provide service, friendly attitude and ready smile.

OPEN DATE:	July 13, 2012	POSITION:	Front Desk Clerk
CLOSE DATE:	July 20, 2012	SALARY:	Minimum Wage

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum two (2) years in hotel front desk and / or concierge position strongly preferred. Applicants must have excellent people skills, willingness to provide service, friendly attitude and ready to smile.

OPEN DATE:	July 13, 2012	POSITION:	Cashier
CLOSE DATE:	July 20, 2012	SALARY:	Minimum Wage

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum two (2) years in retail sales experience preferred. Must have excellent people skills, willingness to provide service, friendly attitude and ready smile.

OPEN DATE:	July 13, 2012	POSITION:	Lifeguard
CLOSE DATE:	July 20, 2012	SALARY:	Minimum Wage

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent. Obtaining a lifeguard certification may be required for continued employment. Must have friendly and outgoing personality.

OPEN DATE:	July 13, 2012	POSITION:	Housekeeping Attendant
CLOSE DATE:	July 20, 2012	SALARY:	Minimum Wage

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum two (2) years in housekeeping or commercial cleaning preferred. Must have a friendly and outgoing personality.

OPEN DATE:	July 13, 2012	POSITION:	Laundry Attendant
CLOSE DATE:	July 20, 2012	SALARY:	Minimum Wage

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum two (2) years in housekeeping or laundry services preferred. Must have a friendly and outgoing personality.

OPEN DATE:	July 13, 2012	POSITION:	Education/Training Coordinator
CLOSE DATE:	July 20, 2012	SALARY:	Minimum Wage/Negotiable

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum three (3) year experience preferred. Human Resources / personnel management experience preferred. Excellent communications skills and presentation skills highly preferred.

OPEN DATE:	July 13, 2012	POSITION:	Technical Support Specialist (Graphic Designer)
CLOSE DATE:	July 20, 2012	SALARY:	Minimum Wage/Negotiable

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum two (2) year experience in computer graphic design. Formal education/training in IT or Design related subjects highly preferred.

For more information, please contact Ms. Miriam K. Seman, Human Resources Team Manager at (670) 234-5900 ext. 274/266.

Employment application forms are available at the Saipan World Resort, Security Office, located next to the Wave Jungle Water Park. Applicants must submit the completed form and all the necessary requirements to the Security Office. Incomplete application will not be received by the Security Office.

Stop Google ads based on your searches

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: I recently did Google searches for dehumidifiers and for mantel clocks. Now, whenever I use Google to go to a website, I see ads for dehumidifiers and mantel clocks. Google has obviously tracked my searches and is targeting ads at me.

I find this annoying. Can I stop them from doing this?

Also, I have recently had a different problem with Google's Web page. After visiting a page in the Google search results, I hit the "back" button in the upper left corner of the Internet Explorer browser to return to the results. But instead, the Google page closes. Is there a fix for this?—Frank O'Keefe, Medina, Minn.

ANSWER: Google is definitely tracking your searches as a means of aiming advertising at you. And, with Google's new combined privacy policy for its various services, the problem could get worse. You may also get advertisements based on your Google searches when you watch YouTube videos, use Google Maps or send emails via Google's Gmail.

However, if you sign in to Google to use its search function, there is a way to opt out of this "personalization" of advertising. It involves clearing what the company calls your "Google Web History." Clearing it won't prevent Google from collecting information about your searches, but the company says it won't use the data to personalize the advertisements you see. To clear your information, sign into a Google service such as Gmail, go to http:///www.google.com/history and click "remove all Web history."

If you don't sign in to use Google, rest assured that information is still being collected about your searches and is being used to send you related advertisements, even though your name is not attached to the information.

How is this possible? You can still be identified as a specific individual via tracking cookies, bits of identifiable computer code that Google puts into your browser. But you can "opt out" of Google's cookie tracking by going to http://www.google.com/ads/preferences.

There have been many reports of Internet Explorer (closing or having problems on the Google search page, and no simple solution has emerged. It may be a problem with the version of IE you are using; see http://www.tinyurl.com/crtvjte/. Or it could be an incompatibility with a Google tool bar, as described at http://www.tinyurl.com/chmkvk6/. Others blame the way Google and some other large websites handle data, or some flaw in one of the software updates Microsoft sends out for Internet Explorer. A discussion can be found at this Microsoft help forum: http://www.tinyurl.com/7whru97/.

I suggest using another browser, such as Mozilla Firefox or Google Chrome. You can download Firefox at http://www.mozilla.org/ and Chrome at http://chrome.google.com/.

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. *Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.*

Life & Style

Ownership of Dylan's historic guitar in dispute

NEW YORK (AP)—Bob Dylan and historians at PBS are in a dispute over the whereabouts of an electric guitar that the singer plugged in at the Newport Folk Festival in 1965, quite possibly the most historic single instrument in rock 'n' roll.

The New Jersey daughter of a pilot who flew Dylan to appearances in the 1960s says she has the guitar, which has spent much of the past 47 years in a family attic. But a lawyer for Dylan claims the singer still has the Fender Stratocaster with the sunburst design that he used during one of the most memorable performances of his career.

If the authentic "Dylan goes electric" guitar ever went on the open marketplace, experts say it could fetch as much as a half million dollars.

The guitar is the centerpiece of next Tuesday's season premiere of PBS' "History Detectives," and the show said late Wednesday it stood by its conclusion that Dawn Peterson, the pilot's daughter who works as a customer relations manager for an energy company, has the right instrument.

On July 25, 1965, that guitar was more an object of derision than desire.

With his acoustic songs of social protest, a young Bob Dylan was a hero to folk music fans in the early 1960s and the Newport festival was their Mecca. Bringing an electric guitar and band with him onstage to launch into "Maggie's Farm" was more than an artistic change, it was a provocative act. Most folk purists disdained rock 'n' roll.

What happened next is a little foggy. Did an enraged Pete Seeger really try to cut Dylan's electric power? Was the crowd upset about the noise, or by Dylan leaving the stage after only three songs? Was it even upset at all? He later returned for a couple of acoustic songs.

AP

This undated image released by PBS shows, from left, Elyse Luray, contributor Dawn Peterson and Wes Cowan, from "History Detectives" with Bob Dylan's guitar.

Either way, Dylan never looked back.

Music has its share of memorable instruments, like Paul McCartney's Hofner bass or the Gibson guitars that B.B. King calls Lucille. Yet it's tough to think of any instrument that was the focus of an event more meaningful than the electric guitar Dylan played that day, said Howard Kramer, curatorial director of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame + Museum.

"This is not just kinda cool. This is way cool," said guitar expert Andy Babiuk. "We all love Bob Dylan, but this is really a pinnacle point not just in his career but for music in general. I don't think music in the 1960s would have been the same if Dylan had not gone electric."

Victor Quinto briefly flew music stars like Dylan, The Band and Peter, Paul & Mary around during the 1960s. Peterson, his daughter, said Dylan left the Fender behind on an airplane and Quinto took it home. She was told that her father contacted Dylan's representatives to get them to pick it up, but no one ever did. Quinto died at age 41, when his daughter was 8, and she treasures any remaining connection to her dad. The guitar was in her parents' attic until about 10 years ago when she took it.

Peterson had no idea about its history until a friend of her husband's saw it and mentioned the possible Newport connection. After unsuccessfully trying to verify it on her own, she turned to "History Detectives" about a year ago for help.

"When I heard it, I was like, 'Yeah, right,'" said Elyse Luray, a former Christie's auction house appraiser and auctioneer who co-hosts the PBS show. But there were intriguing clues. Peterson's father left behind an address book that included a phone number for "Bob Dylan, Woodstock." Luray showed the guitar case to a former Dylan roadie who recognized the name of a little-known company that Dylan had formed at the time stenciled on its side.

A sheaf of papers with handwritten song lyrics was in the guitar case and PBS took them to an expert, Jeff Gold, who said the handwriting matched Dylan's. The fragmentary lyrics later appeared, in part, on songs that Dylan recorded but rejected for his 1966 "Blonde on Blonde" album.

And the Oscar goes to...Batman? Could happen

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—It's a good thing Batman dresses in black. He could be a popular guy on Hollywood's black-tie circuit come Academy Awards season.

"The Dark Knight Rises" probably has the best chance ever for a superhero film to rise into the best-picture mix at February's Oscars. The film is the last in a celebrated trilogy that elevated comic-book movies to operatic proportion, and Hollywood likes sending finales out with a lovely door-prize (Peter Jackson's first two "Lord of the Rings" films were Oscar also-rans before the trilogy's conclusion won best picture).

It has the weight and scope—and then some—of 2008's "The Dark Knight," the "Batman Begins" sequel whose snub in the best-picture field helped prod the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences to expand the category to more than five nominees.

Nolan

And in the snub department, academy voters are not likely to forget that Batman boss Christopher Nolan, one of modern Hollywood's true innovators, has yet to be nominated for best director. So there could be an "oops, sorry about that" sheepishness among Oscar types working in both Nolan's and the film's favor.

Nolan doesn't feel snubbed that "The Dark Knight" was overlooked for best picture or that he missed out on a directing nomination for that one and his 2010 thriller "Inception," a best-picture nominee. He actually sees a one-of-a-kind honor in the way his films have played out over Oscar season.

"Look, the idea, the fact that people have talked about 'The Dark Knight' as being a key reason why the academy changed their rules and expanded the field is just a huge honor for the film, in a weird way," Nolan said.

The rules now allow for as many as 10 best-picture contenders. Opening next week, "The Dark Knight Rises" may just speak for itself as a work of high costume drama—albeit superhero costumes—that's worthy of show business' highest honors, no matter how many nominees there are.

The film is gorgeous, sharply written, briskly paced despite an epic running time approaching three hours. The characters have depth and pathos, and the drama feels far richer than the usual hero-saving-the-world saga. The action reflects our own hard times as a masked terrorist lays siege to the masses in a sort of perverse Occupy Gotham City movement that pits the comic-book world's 99 percenters against the rich and rapacious.

"I'm not saying this as a cast member. I'm saying this as a member of the academy. So far, it's the best film I've seen all year," said Anne Hathaway, who plays master thief Catwoman in "The Dark Knight Rises." "He's transcended the genre now. I think he's shown that a comic-book movie can actually be epic, extraordinary cinema."

So that's one Oscar vote already from past best-actress nominee Hathaway. Round up the rest of Nolan's key cast and the film's got even more academy backers: four Oscar winners—Michael Caine, Morgan Freeman, Marion Cotillard and Batman himself, Christian Bale—and another longtime awards season oversight, Gary Oldman, who finally got his first nomination last season.

That's half a dozen big names pulling for "The Dark Knight Rises." Sure, it's a tiny fraction of the academy's nearly 6,000 members. Yet when that many great actors sign up for a superhero flick, it must be something special.

HOLLYWOOD THEATERS
Don't just go to the movies, GO HOLLYWOOD!
Located near Joeten Superstore in San Jose Saipan MP • 234-9000

$6.00	Bargain Matinees - All Shows Before 6PM
$6.00	All Day Admission For Seniors
$4.75	All Day Admission For Kids (ages 3-11)
$6.00	Student Admission with Valid I.D.
$6.00	Military with Valid I.D.

RESERVE TICKETS ONLINE AT www.gohollywood.com
dts DOLBY DIGITAL STADIUM SEATING WITH HIGH-BACK LOVESEATS
Friday, July 13th through Thursday, July 19th, 2012
OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK
NOW SHOWING

Ice Age 3: Continental Drift
Friday and Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:30
Sunday thru Thursday 1:15 4:15 7:15
Ray Romano, John Leguizamo
Children's/family • Rated PG
Synopsis
The Ice Age franchise continues with this 3D entry in the highly successful series. Ray Romano, John Leguizamo, Queen Latifah, Denis Leary, Seann William Scott, and Josh Peck reprise their roles, with Jeremy Renner, Jennifer Lopez, and Aziz Ansari heading up the rest of the voice cast.

Savages
Friday and Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:50
Sunday thru Thursday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Taylor Kitsch, Salma Hayek
Crime • Rated R
Synopsis
A pair of West Coast weed dealers get tangled up in a Mexican cartel's drug business after they kidnap their friend in this Universal Pictures production. Oliver Stone directs from a script he wrote with Shane Salerno and Don Winslow, whose novel the film is based on.

Katy Perry: Part of Me
Friday and Saturday 4:05 7:05 9:35
Sunday thru Thursday 4:05 7:05
Katy Perry
Musical • Rated PG

The Amazing Spider-Man
Friday and Saturday 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:55
Sunday thru Thursday 1:10 4:10 7:10
Andrew Garfield, Emma Stone
Action, Fantasy, Drama • Rated PG 13

Magic Mike
Friday and Saturday 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:45
Sunday thru Thursday 1:20 4:20 7:20
Channing Tatum, Alex Pettyfer
Comedy, Drama • Rated R

Ted
Friday and Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 10:05
Sunday thru Thursday 1:25 4:25 7:25
Mark Wahlberg, Mila Kunis
Comedy • Rated R

Brave
Friday and Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 10:00
Sunday thru Thursday 1:30 4:30 7:30
Kelly MacDonald, Emma Thompson
Children's/family • Rated PG

Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted
Friday and Saturday 1:05
Sunday thru Thursday 1:05
Ben Stiller, Chris Rock, David Schwimmer
Children's/family • Rated PG

● NO PASSES ■ NO PASSES OR SUPER SAVERS
GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE • R-RATED FILMS REQUIRE PHOTO I.D.
www.gohollywood.com

Ex-Marine wants to re-enlist where tattoos are welcome

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: My son is 24 and was honorably discharged as a corporal after a four-year enlistment in the U.S. Marine Corps. He was deployed twice to Iraq. Since his return he has been attending community college, but he lacks the focus and is bored. He has recently announced that he would like to return to the military.

When he approached the Marine recruiter to re-enlist, he was told he's ineligible due to tattoos on his arms. After four years of honorable and devoted service, this rejection is insulting. He has announced to family that he will pursue enlistment in the French Foreign Legion next year.

This is very distressing to me, and I'm sick with worry about his well-being. I do not want him to go off to fight in a foreign military. Can you offer any words of wisdom?

WORRIED MOM IN GAINESVILLE, FLA.

DEAR WORRIED MOM: Encourage your son to explore enlistment opportunities with other branches of the U.S. military regarding their tattoo policies. However, while you and I might consider his desire to join the French Foreign Legion to be an extreme overreaction to his rejection by the Marines, as an adult he has a right to make that choice. If he goes through with his plan, he may see less action than he would as a member of the U.S. military.

While I can't make this easier for you as a parent, I do have this advice to offer. Tell your son it would be in his best interest to learn some basic French before he goes.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My twin sister and I have lived across the country from each other for many years, but have remained close through phone calls. Two years ago she began talking politics, and we realized we differ on the topic. I asked her if we could not talk so much about the subject and just "agree to disagree."

Things were fine until she planned a visit to see me and also a friend who agrees politically with her. I told her she was welcome to use my car to see her friend, but I didn't want to go because I knew politics would be brought up. It made her very angry, and she ended up canceling her trip.

We have continued our phone chats, and I stayed with her several days last year to celebrate our brother's birthday. But the bond we had is no longer there. I can feel her and my brother pulling away from me. I'm sure it's because of our political differences.

I don't know how to turn things around. I have never argued with them, but feel they are making me an outsider. How can I get them back without compromising my own views?

Twenty years ago, my sister and I differed on some religious points, and she wanted nothing to do with me for the next two years. It took our mother's death to get us back together. Help!

LOVES MY TWIN

DEAR LOVES: While you and your twin were wombmates, nowhere is it written that because of your twinship you must think in unison. For the time being, my advice is to calm down. This being an election year, feelings are running high. Keep the lines of communication open as far as your sister and brother will allow. After the election is over, your relationship may normalize.

However, if it doesn't, then it's important you remember that the experiences we have as we travel life's path can turn even twins into very different people. Accept that, and your heart will be less fragile.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Jack Abramoff gets radio show with Clear Channel

WASHINGTON (AP)—Disgraced Washington lobbyist Jack Abramoff has a new talk radio show to offer advice on reforming politics.

Premiere Networks, part of Clear Channel Media, announced Wednesday that "The Jack Abramoff Show" has debuted on XM Satellite Radio's "Talk Radio" channel. It airs Sundays from 5 to 8 p.m.

Abramoff went to federal prison for corruption. He says he may be the nation's "most controversial radio host" because he was involved in the money-based political culture he says needs an overhaul.

Abramoff

Producers say the Washington-based show offers the unique perspective of a political insider. It's being produced by the same unit that features Rush Limbaugh, Glenn Beck, Ryan Seacrest and other personalities.

Abramoff was released from prison in 2010, then spent six months working at a Baltimore pizzeria.

Scientist names marine parasite after Bob Marley

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)—A tiny blood-sucking parasite that infests fish on Caribbean coral reefs has been named after Jamaican reggae icon Bob Marley.

Arkansas State University marine biologist Paul Sikkel discovered the parasite off the U.S. Virgin Islands a decade ago but it was only recently unveiled as "Gnathia marleyi" as an homage to the singer. Sikkel says he dubbed the tiny crustacean due to his "respect and admiration" for Marley, who died in 1981.

The National Science Foundation says the creature is a new species within the family of gnathiids, parasites commonly found on coral reefs that are ecologically similar to blood-sucking ticks on land. It infests some fish that inhabit reefs of the shallow eastern Caribbean.

This undated picture released by the National Science Foundation on Wednesday, July 11, 2012, shows a close-up of an adult male gnathiid parasite. AP

Celebrities such as comedian Stephen Colbert and singer Beyonce have had insects named after them.

Gabor's husband appointed temporary conservator

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Zsa Zsa Gabor's husband will serve as her temporary conservator under an agreement reached with the ailing actress' daughter and approved by a judge Wednesday.

Attorneys announced a settlement between Frederic von Anhalt, Gabor's husband of 25 years, and her daughter Constance Francesca Hilton during a hearing. Superior Court Judge Reva Goetz approved the provisions, which call for financial oversight by several attorneys and allow Hilton to visit with her mother weekly.

Von Anhalt will continue to make medical decision about his wife's care. He smiled after his appointment and outside the courthouse declared "Victory!" and said he was happy with the outcome.

Hilton said she came to court, "to protect my mother and me."

Gabor

Gabor's husband and daughter have argued for years as each has accused the other of financial mismanagement related to Gabor's wealth. Hilton asked to be named her mother's conservator in March and said she was concerned the actress wasn't being properly treated.

A doctor who evaluated the star a few weeks later determined that Gabor's well-being is closely tied to her remaining in a familiar environment.

Goetz said that a conservatorship was necessary for Gabor and set a January 9 hearing for an update on the how the agreement was working.

Hilton's attorney Kenneth Kossoff said he is cautiously optimistic the arrangement will work, and he will now receive monthly statements on Gabor's finances and will be able to review her medical files.

Judge: No legal emergency in Octomom strip case

BEACH, Fla. (AP)—An effort to cancel a Florida strip-club performance by the woman known as "Octomom" has been denied by a Florida judge.

Circuit Judge Timothy McCarthy has ruled against holding an emergency hearing requested by T's Lounge in West Palm Beach, saying the situation does not "constitute a legal emergency."

T's Lounge was trying to thwart Nadya Suleman's scheduled appearance Friday at a competing club. She had signed a contract to dance topless at T's this week but later backed out in favor of The Playhouse Gentleman's Club in Hollywood.

That show can go on, though a lawsuit against her filed by T's will likely proceed.

T's says Suleman backed out of a contract for eight shows set to begin Wednesday, her 37th birthday. Under the contract, she could back out with 35 days' notice; T's says she gave 34. It also barred Suleman from appearing at another strip club within 50 miles and 90 days of her engagements in West Palm Beach.

T's is seeking damages in excess of $15,000, saying she caused "irreparable harm."

Phone and email messages left for Gina Rodriguez, a spokeswoman for Suleman, were not returned Wednesday.

Suleman, who lives in La Habra, Calif., is the mother of 14 children, including octuplets born in 2009. She has struggled financially, recently declaring bankruptcy.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Luke Bryan sorry for All-Star national anthem

NEW YORK (AP)—Luke Bryan is saying sorry for his performance during Major League Baseball's All-Star game. The country singer admits that he did check the lyrics he had written on his hand while he sang the national anthem on Tuesday night. He also checked his watch. In a series of tweets Wednesday, Bryan says he's sincerely sorry if he offended anyone. He says he just wanted to make sure that he didn't mess up and that his singing came from the heart. He also said he checked his watch because he knew a stealth bomber was going to fly overhead as part of the festivities, and he started a little late. Bryan sang the anthem before the National League blew out the American League 8-0 in Kansas City, Mo.

Chenoweth injured on NYC set of 'The Good Wife'

NEW YORK (AP)—Kristin Chenoweth has been injured on the New York City set of the CBS drama "The Good Wife" and has been taken to a hospital. Her publicist, Jill Fritzo, says she was hit in the head by scaffolding and was taken to the hospital by ambulance. Her condition hasn't been disclosed. A fire department spokesman says a woman at that Brooklyn location suffered minor injuries, but he won't identify her. The 43-year-old Chenoweth won a Tony Award for her role in Broadway's "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" and an Emmy Award for her work on "Pushing Daisies." She has a recurring role on "The Good Wife" in the upcoming season.

Wynonna Judd sues ex-stepfather over mortgage

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—Country singer Wynonna Judd has sued her former stepfather over an unpaid mortgage dating to 1994, but his lawyer says the money was a gift, not a loan. The Courier-Journal reports that Judd filed suit this week in Jefferson County Circuit Court in Louisville against Michael Ciminella. He's the ex-husband of Judd's mother, Naomi Judd, and father of actress Ashley Judd. Wynonna Judd's lawsuit contends that Ciminella defaulted on a mortgage in the Old Louisville neighborhood where he lives. Records show that Judd's representatives wrote to Ciminella in September demanding principal and interest of $242,051. Ciminella's lawyer, Jeffrey Thompson, said the money was not a loan but a gift and that Judd had never asked that it be repaid until now. He declined to discuss further details.

Shaquille, funny videos to star in truTV series

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Cable channel truTV is putting Shaquille O'Neal on its team with a new series. The channel said Wednesday that it's ordered 10 episodes of "Upload with Shaquille O'Neal," the working title for a series with the basketball star. Actors and comics Gary Owen and Godfrey will join O'Neal on the show. The trio, along with a weekly guest, will share funny videos they find online and create their own, truTV said. Pranks and pop culture parodies also will be part of the mix. In a statement, O'Neal promised "Upload" will "deliver big laughs." A debut date for the series was not announced.

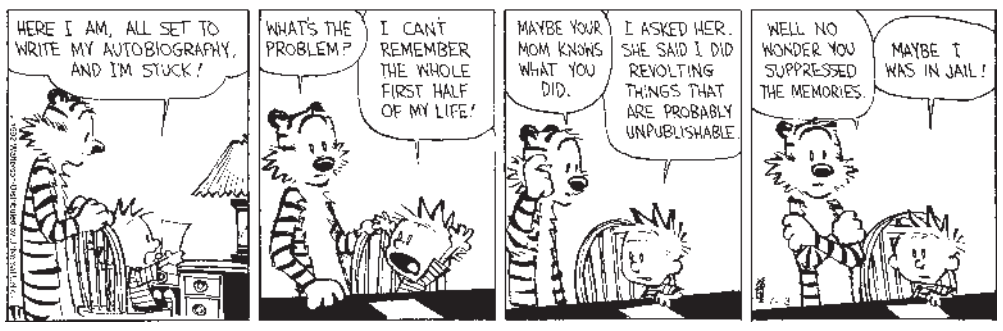
Jailed reggae star Buju Banton wants new trial

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Jailed reggae star Buju Banton wants a new trial in U.S. federal court. Last month, the federal appeals court in Atlanta upheld the Jamaican singer's 2011 conviction on cocaine conspiracy and trafficking charges. The three-judge panel also sided with a Tampa jury's conviction of Banton on a gun possession charge, which the trial judge tossed at his sentencing. Banton's attorney, David O. Markus, filed a motion Monday in Tampa federal court seeking a new trial on all the charges, or least on the gun charge alone. Banton is serving a 10-year prison sentence. The gun charge carries an additional five-year sentence. The U.S. government filed on Tuesday a motion to strike down Banton's request for another trial. Banton's first trial in 2010 ended in a mistrial when the jury deadlocked.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HERE I AM, ALL SET TO WRITE MY AUTOBIOGRAPHY. AND I'M STUCK!
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
I CAN'T REMEMBER THE WHOLE FIRST HALF OF MY LIFE!
MAYBE YOUR MOM KNOWS WHAT YOU DID.
I ASKED HER. SHE SAID I DID REVOLTING THINGS THAT ARE PROBABLY UNPUBLISHABLE
WELL NO WONDER YOU SUPPRESSED THE MEMORIES.
MAYBE I WAS IN JAIL!

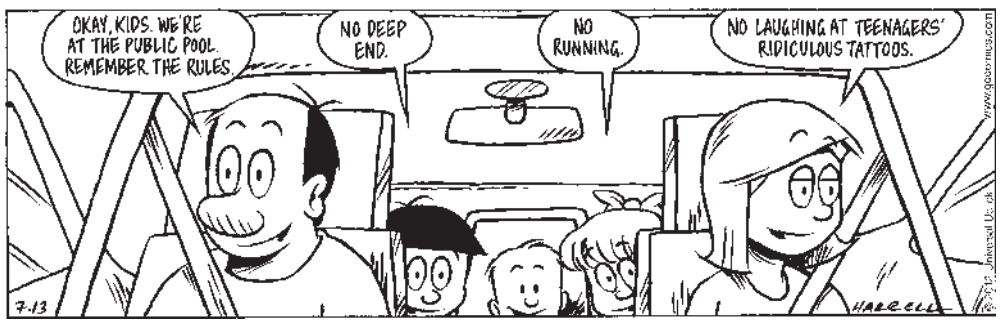
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

LIZ, HAVE I SHOWN YOU MY TIE THAT'S SO WIDE I DON'T NEED TO WEAR A SHIRT?
SHE STILL HASN'T SAID ANYTHING
NOT EVEN BLINKED
JIM DAVIS 7-13

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


OKAY, KIDS. WE'RE AT THE PUBLIC POOL. REMEMBER THE RULES.
NO DEEP END.
NO RUNNING.
NO LAUGHING AT TEENAGERS' RIDICULOUS TATTOOS.
7-13

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

AND I WANT TO CLIMB A MOUNTAIN, AND SEE THE PYRAMIDS, AND...
I DON'T THINK I WAS CLEAR ON THIS CONCEPT.
WHAT'S ON YOUR BUCKET LIST?
BUY A BUCKET.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Gladiatorial venue
6 Agent
9 Early bird?
12 Wears a rut in the rug
13 — -tzu
14 Ultramodern
15 Group character
16 Quito's land
18 Miffed
20 Abundant source
21 Conclusion
23 Miff
24 Manhandled
25 Loud bird
27 Fools
29 Fearful
31 Staples Center team
35 Viticulturist's morsel
37 Teen's woe
38 "Great!"
41 Roulette bet
43 Feedbag tidbit
44 Blueprint
45 Allotment
47 Bliss
49 Overact
52 Trawler need
53 Rd.
54 Stopwatch, e.g.
55 Parched
56 Calendar abbr.
57 "Gypsy" composer

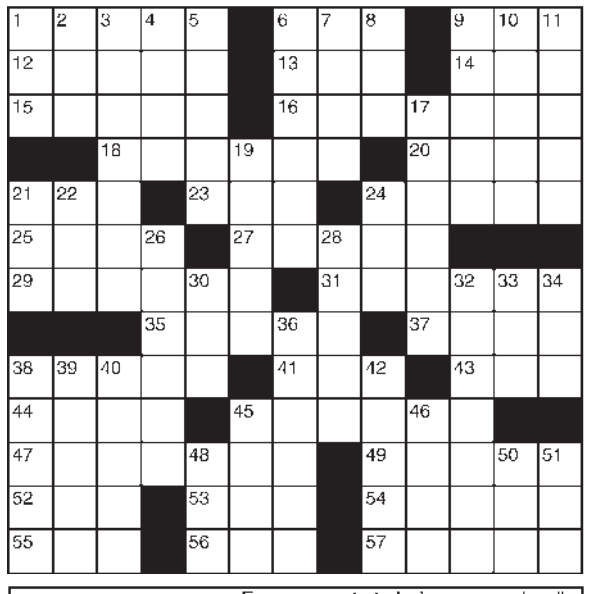
DOWN

1 Mimic
2 Scoundrel
3 Spiny anteater
4 Night light?
5 Very, to Vivaldi
6 Makes smooth
7 Treaty
8 Thee
9 Be philanthropic
10 Crystal-lined stone
11 Impaled
17 Iditarod site
19 Gucci alternative
21 Type measures
22 Big Apple letters
24 Shell game need
26 Heraldic silver
28 Winter forecast
30 Mess up
32 Thrift
33 Genetic abbr.
34 Prepared
36 Orison
38 Shell out
39 Stomach malady
40 Wan
42 Regimens
45 Answer an invite
46 Leave out
48 Motorists' org.
50 X rating?
51 Before

Solution time: 25 mins.

R	I	P	A	■	C	A	B	■	S	L	A	M
I	D	O	L	■	O	R	E	■	H	E	M	O
M	E	O	W	■	G	E	E	■	A	V	O	W
S	A	L	A	M	I	■	F	A	K	I	R	S
■	■	■	Y	E	T	■	■	N	E	T	■	■
A	I	M	S	■	A	S	H	T	R	A	Y	S
P	O	E	■	■	T	O	E	■	■	T	E	E
R	U	D	E	N	E	S	S	■	G	E	N	E
■	■	I	R	E	■	■	I	D	O	■	■	■
O	T	T	A	W	A	■	T	O	L	L	E	D
M	O	A	S	■	G	P	A	■	T	U	M	T
A	N	T	E	■	U	L	T	■	E	R	I	E
R	E	E	D	■	E	Y	E	■	R	E	T	D

Yesterday's answer 7-13



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99c per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Deborah Cox, 38; Cheech Marin, 66; Harrison Ford, 70; Patrick Stewart, 72.

Happy Birthday: Don't share too much information. A positive outlook will help you attract more opportunities. Be a team player and make a contribution to a group you join. Taking action will motivate others to help you reach your goals. Don't limit your options because you feel restricted by responsibilities. Find a way and keep moving. Your numbers are 4, 13, 21, 26, 33, 40, 46.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): A cash injection is apparent. Networking will inspire you to develop your ideas and move forward with your plans. Conversations will lead to new possibilities. Surround yourself with people who are productive, not demanding. Make romance a priority. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Create opportunity instead of opposition. Be a team player by diversifying and adapting to different methods. Reaching your destination successfully will be what counts in the end. Control your emotions and don't reveal personal secrets. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Decide what's important to you and pursue your dreams. Your strength of character will make a difference to anyone in a position to help you. Take action now, both personally and professionally, and you will improve your life. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't complicate your life when it's so important to reach your set goals in order to make personal and professional gains. Change is upon you, and though you may not like it at first, in the end you will benefit. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Financial gains can be yours if you put a unique spin on what you do. Drum up interest and get people involved who have something to contribute. Be a leader and draw attention to your ideas. Show strength and control your emotions. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Call the shots and resolve difficult issues that have been hanging over you. Speak from the heart and show compassion, and you will attract people who have the creative ability to help you achieve your goals. Travel plans will pay off. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Your time and know-how will take you to the top. Open up conversations and use your charm to inspire creative people to join your cause. Traveling or doing something that makes you feel good about you should be your goal. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Trust what you know, and use your judgment when making an important decision that can affect your financial future. Don't shy away from someone you think may be superior to you. Put your best foot forward and you'll discover how great you are. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You can match anyone you come up against. Live, love and laugh your way to the top. Partnerships will help you make alterations to your life that will bring you great satisfaction and recognition. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Approach your responsibilities seriously to command the attention and assistance you require. Methodical plans will allow you to outmaneuver the competition. Knowing your audience will lead to personal and professional success. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Reopen past relationships and you will win approval. Your dedication and desire to be the best you can be will bring you greater success in partnerships that can change your life financially and emotionally. Love is highlighted. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't trust a sales pitch. Experience will shed light on what you should do now. Don't show vulnerability. The grass isn't always greener on the other side of the fence. Do your due diligence before you make a move. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You welcome a challenge and tend to be changeable and proactive.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

9	6						2	8
	8		5	6	4		3	
7								6
		8		5		7		
2								4
	3		9	1	2		7	
4	7						8	2

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 7/13

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	2	6	8	3	4	5	7	9
5	8	7	9	6	2	1	3	4
3	9	4	7	1	5	8	2	6
7	5	8	4	9	3	6	1	2
9	6	1	2	8	7	4	5	3
4	3	2	6	5	1	9	8	7
6	7	9	1	2	8	3	4	5
2	1	5	3	4	6	7	9	8
8	4	3	5	7	9	2	6	1

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/12

©2010 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

2012 LONDON OLYMPICS COMING SOON **Solution: 7 letters**

P	O	T	D	B	R	O	N	Z	E	T	S	O	H	G
R	A	L	W	O	B	B	I	K	I	N	G	C	N	N
A	O	R	Y	E	G	N	I	X	O	B	R	I	E	O
G	R	A	A	M	L	S	I	I	G	O	C	E	N	L
Y	L	C	D	L	P	V	T	L	T	N	R	A	T	H
M	H	Ⓜ	H	R	Y	I	E	I	E	G	I	A	O	T
N	T	Ⓘ	I	E	T	M	A	F	C	V	E	W	L	A
A	S	Ⓝ	M	E	R	R	P	D	L	K	A	M	O	I
S	T	Ⓣ	P	U	E	Y	I	I	W	A	E	J	P	R
T	R	M	A	V	I	V	S	O	C	D	M	T	T	T
I	O	I	L	M	I	D	N	W	A	S	R	E	S	E
C	P	I	N	N	P	D	A	L	I	A	A	V	U	N
S	S	I	G	G	O	S	S	T	C	M	C	E	G	N
O	N	T	O	C	S	A	M	K	S	S	E	N	U	I
D	E	Z	I	N	O	R	H	C	N	Y	S	T	A	S

©2012 Universal Uclick www.wonderworld.com join us on Facebook 7/13

Archery, August, Beach, Biking, Boxing, Bronze, Competitions, Diving, Event, Fencing, Flame, Gold, Green, Gymnastics, Host, Javelin, Mascot, Medals, Mint, Olympiad, Paralympics, Polo, Races, Rings, Road, Rowing, Royal, Silver, Sports, Sprint, Stadium, Stamps, Swim, Synchronized, Taekwondo, Tennis, Tickets, Torch, Track, Triathlon, Twelve

Yesterday's Answer: Grand Canyon

THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 3 is ©Universal Uclick 2012 and is the biggest one yet in the series! Treat yourself to 365 days of WONDERWORD puzzles in this 352-page, full-color book. Send $15.95 (plus $5 shipping and handling) to: WONDERWORD, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106. Or call toll-free 1-800-642-6480. Or order online at uclick.com. Contains 45 puzzles. Add sales tax for the 20 in CA, CO, FL, IL, IN, MA, MD, MI, NJ, NY, OH, PA, TN, TX, VA, WA and WI.

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

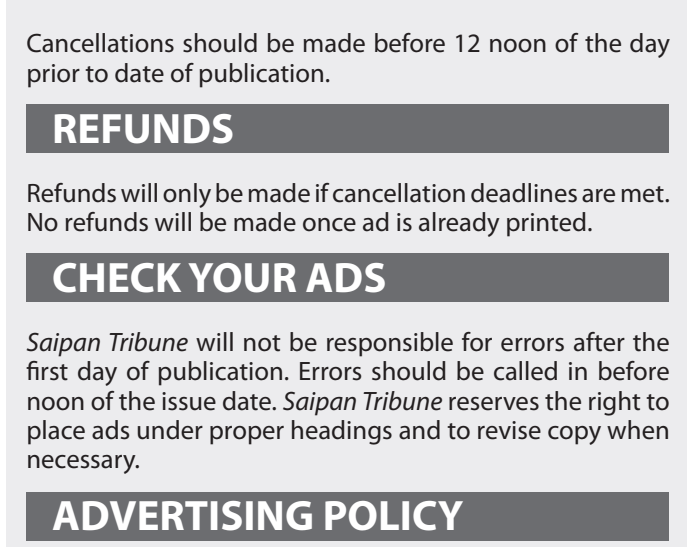
Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



Find today's solution in classified section

Jonny's Corporation
dba Jonny's Bar & Grill

is looking for:

Waitress
22 to 26 years old. Must be a High School Graduate. With Experience. Willing to work late hours.

Cook
With 5 years experience. Willing to work late hours

Please submit resume with a 2"x2" picture to Jonny's Bar & Grill.

WHATZIT Solution:
Stand by your man

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

AC PACIFIC LLC, DBA STAR SANDS

Is an Equal Opportunity Employer

WE ARE CURRENTLY SEEKING POSITIVE, ENERGETIC AND OUTGOING INDIVIDUALS FOR THE POSITION OF:

1 – ACCOUNTANT – Applicants must have at least 5 years work experience, Must be computer literate, specially the use of accounting software such as QB, ACCUPOS, Must have excellent communication skills (oral and written), Must be able to perform bank reconciliation/Payroll/BGRT tax, Input all excise tax payable and other billing to QB, analyze receiving data from POS to QB, record all vendor invoices to QB on daily basis, review and prepare vendor payment based on due dates, Must be detail and deadline oriented, Partake in physical inventory, Must be able to work on weekends and holidays.

1 – MERCHANDISER – Applicants must have at least 3 years work experience in retail industry. Have great sense of marketing, promotion and advertising techniques. Must be computer literate and must able to read/write and speak English as she/he will order product via phone, emails, fax from off-island and on-island supplier, ability to speak other languages such as Chinese, Korean, Japanese and Russian is a plus but not required, Must be able to work flexible hours, including weekends and holidays.

12 – SALE ASSOCIATES – Applicants must have work experience in retail sales, cash handling and using sales systems. Must have excellent communication skills (orals and written) Must have excellent customer service skills. Ability to speak other languages such as Chinese, Korean, Japanese and Russian is a plus but not required, Must be able to work on weekends and holidays.

1 – GENERAL MAINTENANCE – Applicants must have at least 5 years work experience, Must have excellent communication skills (oral and written) Applicants must have ability to perform multiple task but not limited to plumbing, electrical, carpentry and masonry work and able to work flexible hours including weekends and holidays.

NO PHONE CALL

In order to apply for a job at Star Sands Plaza, Please visit our website http://www.starsandsplaza.com And follow the instruction. If you do not have access to computer/Internet, Employment Applications are available at Star Sands Plaza office.

Apartment for Rent in Dandan and CK

2 Bedroom-Semi Furnished (Dandan) $325.00
Prepaid power meter • Free trash collection

2 Bedroom-unfurnished (CK) $200.00

MIHA applicants are welcome
Call 288-4916 or 285-7860

MARIANAS STAR CORPORATION
Job Vacancy Announcement

One (1) Heavy Eqpt. Maintenance/Repairer

Minimum of 5 years experience or more required. Must be knowledgeable in the maintenance and repair of diesel powered engine and related equipments using power and hand tools, generator engine overhaul of 1000KW and more, electrical control panel, digital voltage regulator setting and other related duties.

Email to marianas_star@yahoo.com
Fax: 288-7824 Tel.: 234-5577

IPod & IPhone Repair
We Buy & Sell Used IPod & IPhone
Please call **233-5641**
Open: 7 Day a Week • 9:00 AM-9:00 PM

Duplex Apt Capitol Hill

2 br, 1 bth, Fully Furnished w/ AC, Linens, Pots, Pans, etc., very private: 322-2424

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) CHINESE INTERPRETER

Submit resume to:
INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE AGENCY
or call tel nos. 234-1942 • 235-5555

www.saipantribune.com

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
 # 04-2012

Opening date: July 13, 2012 **Closing date: July 27, 2012**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) announces the following job vacancy:

Position: (1) Accountant-III (Saipan)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Failure to provide any of the required documents may result in automatic disqualification. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening. The deadline for submission of applications is no later than ***4:30p.m., July 27, 2012.***

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions shall be picked up along with the application form during regular working hours at the CPA's Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Saipan International Airport, Arrival Wing. For more information, please contact Ms. Addy C. Manahane by email at acmanahane@cpa.gov.mp or by phone at (670) 237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Executive Director

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper
Call 235-NEWS
Saipan Tribune
Over 100 food stamp vouchers on hold
Opinion
Focus
More US Catholics take complaints to church court
Campus Life
KagHS JROTC does well in drill co
GCA's January forensic winners
Businesses slam 'excessive' $500 fire re-inspection, $300 permit fees
Are you ready to Ace it?

LOOKING TO BUY VEHICLES

We're buying '95 & Up used cars! Transaction only within 30 mins. Call 287-8688 or visit DPA CAR MART in San Antonio.

WANTED TO BUY

Need cash fast??? We want to buy your OnePass miles or Skymiles!!! Call 888-2205.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $600/mo. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $550. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. $450/mo. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Garage Sale
Saturday, July 7th & 14th, 2012 at 8:00AM – 4:00PM
Tailoring accessories, Household items, Kitchenware, Men and Women clothing, Jewelries and more.
All items are set at LOW LOW Price and MUST GO!!!
Chacha Rd, Kagman I, Corner lot house across Wan Hu Store.
Sign will be posted. NO EARLY BIRDS PLEASE.

Sheu's Brothers Holding Co. LTD
P.O. Box 502997 Saipan, MP 96950
Vacancy Announcement for US workers'

(1) Sales Representative

2 years experience. Knowledge in Chinese language a plus. Flexible hours. Salary $5.05/hr. Call 235-6128. Email tomastchong@gmail.com or call 888-5748.

Nash surprised to find himself with Lakers

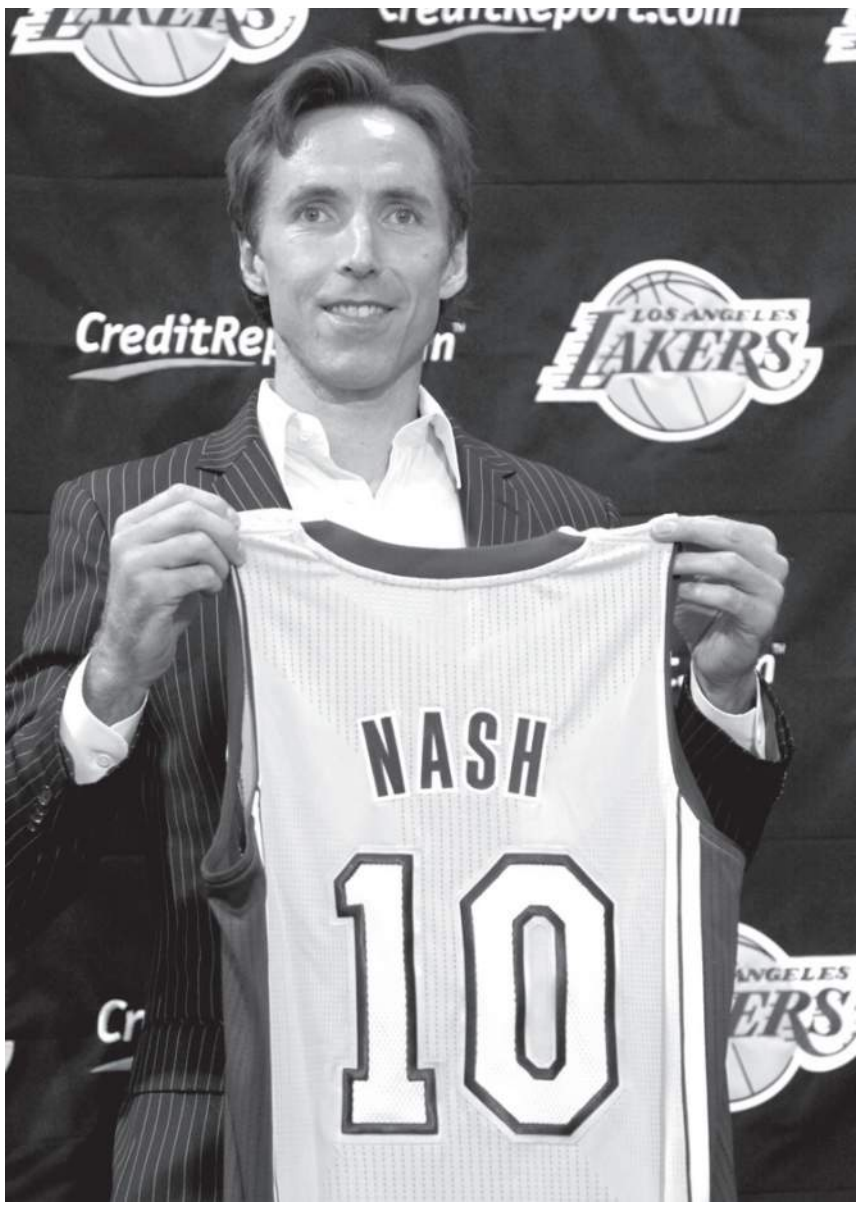
EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP)—Steve Nash knew the scene was more than a bit surreal when he stood in the Los Angeles Lakers' training complex, grinning and holding up a gold No. 10 jersey with his name on the back.

"Being here right now is something I never foresaw," Nash said Wednesday. "That (jersey) was a major hurdle for me just to get over visually as a player."

The two-time MVP will get used to it. After spending the past 16 years trying to beat L.A. in Phoenix and Dallas, Nash is switching teams to chase NBA titles alongside Kobe Bryant.

The Lakers formally welcomed Nash on Wednesday, a week after reaching a deal to get the superstar point guard from the Suns. After several days to get used to these developments, the 38-year-old Nash is eager to open another chapter in his remarkable career—a chapter that will extend to at least 2015 under his new three-year, $27 million contract.

"It's a franchise that I think everybody would dream of playing for," Nash said, evincing his usual sartorial style in a dark-blue pinstriped suit with an open shirt collar and a red pocket square. "It's an exciting project, to say the least. ... I definitely never thought I'd play 19 years in the league, and I feel very fortunate that I have my health and, most importantly, have the desire to do it. I still enjoy pushing myself to get better and produce. I don't foresee that changing, and that's the key ingredient."



AP

Newly-acquired Los Angeles Lakers guard Steve Nash holds up his new jersey during a news conference at the team's headquarters in El Segundo, Calif., Wednesday, July 11, 2012.

Nash wasn't the only person still surprised to find him in the Lakers' gym, where Metta World Peace got in a workout shortly before Nash arrived.

Los Angeles general manager Mitch Kupchak thought he had no chance to get Nash when Lakers owner Jim Buss encouraged him to call Nash's agent, Bill Duffy, in the opening minutes of free agency. Kupchak quickly learned his team fit Nash's two criteria as an impending free agent no longer in the Suns' plans: Nash wanted to be near his three children in Phoenix, and he wanted to play for a winner.

"I got to tick all the boxes here," Nash said. "It was definitely difficult. I knew in Phoenix that the Lakers have been the most hated team for 40 years, so I knew there would be a lot of people that wouldn't understand. But I've played a long time in this league, and I feel like I deserve to make a move that's best for me and my family.

"The people I really need not to disappoint are my children, and (I'd rather not) tell them I'm going to go back East and see them three or four times a year than I'm going to be in L.A. and see them three or four times a month."

With the Lakers, he can also run pick-and-rolls with the fifth-leading scorer in NBA history while feeding two of the league's best 7-footers, whoever they may be by September.

Kupchak refused to talk about the Lakers' entry in the Dwight Howard sweepstakes while showing off the prize he already won.

Bryant, Pau Gasol and Andrew Bynum are already salivating at the prospect of seeing Nash every night. The eight-time All-Star already is fifth on the NBA's career list with 9,916 assists, and his incredibly accurate jumper should fill a major Lakers need.

The Lakers' triangle offense under former coach Phil Jackson didn't really require a traditional point guard, but the Lakers' deficiencies in playmaking and perimeter shooting have been obvious for several years. Kupchak's deal to get Chris Paul last December was blocked by commissioner David Stern, but when Nash's geographical desires meshed with Los Angeles' trade exception from shipping out Lamar Odom last year, the Lakers had their man.

"I look at him as somebody that can run the show—the maestro, the conductor, however you want to say it," Kupchak said. "There's certain guys at the top of the list. It just didn't seem possible we would have a shot at a player like that ... but I'll be the first to admit that we have a very attractive franchise in a very exciting city. Players enjoy playing for the Lakers."

The Canadian hero born in South Africa to British parents is one of his sport's most popular athletes worldwide, and his star scarcely waned while the Suns were "pretty mediocre the last couple of years," as Nash described it. He's joining Bryant, another global superstar who inspires more polarizing feelings than the kid who emerged from Santa Clara to become a highly improbable multiple MVP.

Nash has played with big names before, from Dirk Nowitzki to Shaquille O'Neal. He said he hopes playing in Bryant's backcourt will allow him to "(take) some pressure off Kobe."

"He's had to take on so much that it would be nice for him to get a few easy baskets, not have to expend so much energy," Nash added. "Hopefully I can spread the floor a little bit with my shooting ability, give Andrew and Pau a little more room to roam."

Kupchak said the Lakers aren't done making moves this summer, and he planned to talk with Duffy, who also represents big man Jordan Hill. There's also the possibility of pursuing veteran Grant Hill, who has said he's considering joining Nash in the move west from Phoenix to Los Angeles.

Grant Hill would have to get used to the sight of his point guard in a No. 10 jersey, since the Lakers retired his traditional No. 13 in honor of a guy named Wilt.

But Nash is a lifelong soccer addict whose first word was "goal," and he said he chose No. 10 to honor Glenn Hoddle, Zinedine Zidane and other playmakers who wore the number. Everything might be new for Nash in Los Angeles, but even at this late date in a career that started in 1996—the same season as Bryant—he's eager for the challenge.

"I look forward to learning all these personalities and making them work together," Nash said. "And I'm sure I'll make friends."

Heat get 2 new shooters; no deal for Magic center

By BRIAN MAHONEY
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

The Miami Heat got two more shooters. The Orlando Magic, at least for now, are keeping their center.

A flurry of deals were completed Wednesday and another one was put on hold on the first day contracts could be signed in the NBA.

Ray Allen and Rashard Lewis inked their deals with the NBA champions, who will rely on their perimeter accuracy to create more space on the court for LeBron James and Dwyane Wade.

The Spurs announced Tim Duncan was staying in San Antonio and the Knicks completed a sign-and-trade to bring Marcus Camby to New York. But there's no deal for the best big man of them all in the NBA right now.

The Magic can't find an agreement they like for All-Star center Dwight Howard, who has asked for a trade to Brooklyn. The Magic have tried to accommodate, only to find nothing from the Nets that fit their desires.

"We've had discussions with Brooklyn, we've had discussions with a host of different teams about a host of different issues. And the answer is, `Yes we're still talking to them,'" Magic general manager Rob Hennigan said. "We're still looking to do whatever it is that puts us in the best position from a sustainability standpoint, (and) from a strategic standpoint.

"... Currently as they stand I think the parameters that we've talked about are a little bit in a stationary position. And currently as it's constructed I'm not sure there's really anything to discuss."

Instead, the Nets re-signed their current center, Brook Lopez, to an extension. He had been linked to the Howard trade talk for months but knows he will at last begin the season in Brooklyn, ineligible to be traded until Jan. 15.

Free agency opened July 1 and teams were able to begin signing players at 12:01 a.m. EDT Wednesday. Deron Williams got a quick start, signing his five-year, $98 million extension with the Nets while in Las Vegas for the U.S. Olympic team's training camp right after the window opened.

Even though he hasn't been able to get Howard, Nets general manager Billy King kept Williams, traded for All-Star guard Joe Johnson and forward Reggie Evans, kept starting forward Gerald Wallace and signed Bosnian forward Mirza Teletovic.

"Billy's done a good job of making some big moves and it makes us relevant again," Williams said. "Just the move to Brooklyn itself, being in New York, makes things better."

Things are looking up for another longtime lowly team, the Los Angeles Clippers. Blake Griffin wanted to be a part of it, signing a five-year extension that could pay him about $95 million.

"It's exciting and that was the goal from day one, to start building something and not just fall into the history of the program," Griffin said of the Clippers, who also signed guard Jamal Crawford, "and I think we've done a good job of turning the ship in the right direction."

Allen decided to leave one good situation for another, taking less money from the Heat than the Celtics were offering. With he and Lewis, Miami will have options all over the court.

"You've got to double-team LeBron. You have to double-team Dwyane Wade. You've got to double-team Chris Bosh. And then you think they're going to leave Ray Allen open?" Lewis said. "They've got to leave somebody open. So I have to go shoot a million jumpers tonight and be ready to knock them down."

Another good 3-point shooter, Ryan Anderson, has a new home. After leading the league in 3-pointers last season and winning the NBA's Most Improved Player award, he was dealt by the Magic to New Orleans for Mexican Gustavo Ayon.

The Hornets have three days to decide if they want Eric Gordon to play with Anderson. He signed an offer sheet in Phoenix for four years and $58 million, but New Orleans has three days to match the deal for the restricted free agent.

Also:

■ The Knicks brought Camby back to New York in a sign-and-trade with Houston and re-signed guard JR Smith. They were still working to complete deals with Jason Kidd and Steve Novak, both of which had already been agreed to.

And even with Kidd coming aboard, Jeremy Lin will enter next season as the Knicks' starting point guard. Coach Mike Woodson repeated that the Knicks would "absolutely" match an offer sheet Lin had agreed to sign with Houston, and that he would go to training camp as the starter.

■ The Toronto Raptors acquired point guard Kyle Lowry from Houston and signed fellow guard Landry Fields to a three-year offer sheet worth nearly $20 million that the Knicks would have three days to match.

■ Golden State sent Dorell Wright to the Philadelphia 76ers in a three-team trade that moved guard Jarrett Jack from the New Orleans Hornets to the Warriors.

■ The Portland Trail Blazers and free agent J.J. Hickson have agreed to a 1-year deal, it was confirmed by the forward's agent, Andy Miller.

■ Seven-foot center Chris Kaman tweeted that he has agreed to a deal with the Dallas Mavericks, giving him a chance to play with friend and former German Olympic teammate Dirk Nowitzki. The deal for Kaman is for one year, according to a person familiar with the agreement. That person also said Dallas was planning to use the amnesty clause on center Brendan Haywood.

■ The Thunder announced the signings of Hasheem Thabeet, the overall No. 2 pick in 2009, and undrafted free agent Hollis Thompson.

Amid all the dealing, there was no chance Duncan was going anywhere. Terms were not disclosed, though Yahoo Sports cited anonymous sources in reporting the 36-year-old forward got a three-year, $36 million deal from the Spurs.

"Tim Duncan has established himself as one of the best players in NBA history," coach Gregg Popovich said. "He is an unselfish superstar who loves to compete and has only one goal when he steps on the court—to do whatever it takes to help his team win. We are all thrilled that he'll spend his entire career as a San Antonio Spur."

Trade talk should heat up in baseball's 2nd half

By JON KRAWCZYNSKI
AP BASEBALL WRITER

AP

National League's Cole Hamels, of the Philadelphia Phillies, delivers against the American League during seventh inning of the MLB All-Star baseball game, Tuesday, July 10, 2012, in Kansas City, Mo.

There was a public outcry when R.A. Dickey did not start the All-Star game, a journeyman for the Chicago White Sox threw a perfect game and the Pittsburgh Pirates of all teams were in first place as the first half of the baseball season drew to a close.

What's next, postseason baseball in the nation's capital? It sure looks that way.

An eventful and unexpected first half that included Dickey knuckling his way to stardom with the Mets, Phil Humber's out-of-nowhere perfecto for the White Sox and the Yankees muzzling former slugger Reggie Jackson after some disparaging comments about Alex Rodriguez is only expected to get more intriguing as the season rounds second and heads for third.

The non-waiver trade deadline is looming at the end of the month, and the Baltimore Orioles and White Sox got ahead of the curve by acquiring Jim Thome and Kevin Youkilis, respectively, to bolster their offenses. Milwaukee's Zack Greinke, Philadelphia's Cole Hamels and Arizona's Justin Upton could be headed elsewhere as the contenders and pretenders separate themselves.

"There's several teams involved in races right now," said Detroit manager Jim Leyland, whose Tigers joined the Phillies and Red Sox on the list of big-spending underachievers in the first half of the season. "There's probably going to be a lot of teams that would like to go out and get somebody. But the more teams that want to get something, the tougher it is to get it."

And there's even more motivation for deals to be made in the first year of baseball's expanded postseason. The Fall Classic will be a little wilder this time around. A new format kicks in this year that adds an extra wild card team to each league. That means 10 teams will have a chance to get in and go for it all.

The Orioles, who trail the Yankees by seven games in the AL East, haven't been to the postseason since 1997, the Pirates haven't been there since 1992 and the nation's capital hasn't hosted a playoff baseball game since 1933, when Mel Ott homered in Game 5 of the World Series to help the New York Giants beat the Senators for the championship.

That was long before Natitude, long before "that's a clown question, bro" and certainly way before the All-Star game decided home-field advantage in the World Series. It's a new day, and if Bryce Harper and the Nationals or Andrew McCutchen and the Pirates somehow Buc the odds and make it to the Series, they'll be hosting the party after the National League beat the AL 8-0.

With so much on the line from here on out, the game in Kansas City could be one of the last nights of baseball without any juice for quite a while.

"We're playing for a lot more here," Pirates manager Clint Hurdle said. "We're playing for a city, the goal being to re-bond the city with its ballclub."

■■■

HOT RACES: The Yankees hold a seven-game lead over Baltimore in the AL East, but it's still early and every division is up for grabs. Here's a few of the races that are expected to remain tight until the final days.

■ NL Central: The Pirates are just one game ahead of the Reds and only 2 1/2 games ahead of the defending champs in St. Louis.

■ NL West: The Dodgers looked like the class of the league at the start of the season, but injuries to stars Matt Kemp and Andre Ethier have brought them back to the pack. And the Giants, just half a game back, are brimming with confidence after Pablo Sandoval, Melky Cabrera and Matt Cain led the NL to an 8-0 win in the All-Star game.

■ AL West: The Rangers may be the best team in baseball, but the Los Angeles Angels have rebounded from a slow start to show that this will be no runaway. The Rangers lead by 4 games in search of their third straight AL crown.

■■■

TRADE BAIT: Several big names figure to be trading places by the end of the month as teams look for that extra edge to push them into the postseason.

■ Felix Hernandez, RHP, Mariners: Seattle has been adamant that it is not considering moving King Felix. But if they ever would, now may be the time. The 26-year-old is 6-5 with a 3.13 ERA and is signed through 2014. He's already topped 1,500 innings pitched in his young career and the Mariners appear nowhere close to contending.

■ Francisco Liriano, LHP, Twins: Got off to a horrendous start to the season and was moved to the bullpen. But it's what have you done for me lately, and the lefty who will be a free agent this winter is 3-2 with a 2.74 ERA and .175 opponents' batting average since rejoining the rotation. Last-place Twins need young assets, and Liriano may be best trade chip.

■ Cole Hamels, LHP, and Shane Victorino, OF, Phillies: The Phils already moved Charlie Manuel favorite Jim Thome. Now these two mainstays, who are eligible for free agency at the end of the season, could be available for the right price.

■ Carlos Quentin, OF, Padres: Any team looking for some proven power should consider Quentin, who topped 20 homers in each of the past four years for the White Sox. In his first season in spacious Petco Park, Quentin has just seven homers and could benefit from a change of scenery.

■■■

KEY INJURIES: These guys better get healthy if their teams expect to have a chance to play into October.

■ CC Sabathia, LHP, Yankees: On the disabled list with a strained left groin, the Yankees desperately need their horse back at the top of the rotation. With Andy Pettitte out until late August at the earliest with a fractured left ankle, big No. 52 is more important than ever in New York.

■ Evan Longoria, 3B, Rays: Longoria is on the shelf with a torn left hamstring that could keep him out for a while. In the meantime, the Rays will try to stay within shouting distance of the Yankees and the wild card without their leader.

■ Kemp, OF, Dodgers: He has emerged as perhaps the best player in the game, a "five-tool guy" who has given the Dodgers their swagger. But he's played in just two games since May 14 because of a strained left hamstring, the kind of injury that can linger if it's not taken care of properly.

■ Stephen Strasburg, RHP, Nationals: He has shown no ill effects coming off Tommy John surgery, which will make the second half all the more intriguing for the Nationals and their young flamethrower. GM Mike Rizzo has said that the team intends to hold Strasburg to an innings limit and will shut him down once he reaches that point to try to avoid another major arm injury. But if the Nats are in contention for a title, will they be able to hold true to that?

Darvish variety to Dickey mastery for same results

Hall of Fame pitcher Nolan Ryan had a blazing fastball, the first ever clocked at 100 mph, during 27 seasons that included 5,714 strikeouts and seven no-hitters. Mariano Rivera has used a devastating, bat-cracking cutter for a record 608 saves to be part of five World Series championships with the New York Yankees.

R.A. Dickey? He mastered one pitch, the knuckleball, and at age 37 became an All-Star for the first time.

Then Yu Darvish came to America this year with an array of different pitches, at least seven and maybe more depending on how you might classify his repertoire. The Japanese ace won 10 games for the Texas Rangers before the All-Star break.

"Everything from the velocity to the way he spins the ball is impressive. ... He can do a lot of different things with the baseball," Los Angeles Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. "When he needs to make a pitch, he has a lot of different things he can do."

There are fastballs, sliders, curves, slurves, palmballs, splitters, forkballs and even the infamous gyroball. The curve has nicknames like hammer, deuce or Uncle Charlie.

But are there really that many more pitches these days? Or are things more specific because of all the advance scouting and modern technology that can track the speed and movement of every pitch?

"Now you're talking about two-seamers, four-seamers and cutters. That can be three pitches off the fastball, where before it was just a fastball," said Arizona manager Bob Melvin, a former big-league catcher. "I think with video and bats and breaking things down and analyzing now, now you're just getting a little more complex where those pitchers might have been there in the past, but now they're designated all as different pitches."

More than the typical fastball, curve, slider and change of the past.

"I put down one (finger) and got whatever they threw me," said Melvin, who played in the majors from 1985-94.

Like Darvish with his wide variety of pitches or Dickey and his specialized toss, every pitcher who has ever stood on a mound is trying to do the same thing: Get the guy out.

Seattle right-hander Kevin Millwood, who last month threw the first six innings of a combined no-hitter, is in the 16th season of his major league career that began in Atlanta when he was on a staff with four-time Cy Young winner Greg Maddux, Tom Glavine and John Smoltz.

"I guess you can have as many pitches as you want as long as you can control them and know where they're going. I have a hard enough time with four," Millwood said with a chuckle.

"I watched Glavine win a lot of ballgames throwing pretty much two pitches, Smoltz was pretty much the same way," he said. "Maddux, he would use three different pitches really and might mix in a curveball here and there. But for the most part he was fastball, changeup and a little cutter."

Satchel Paige had his bow-tie pitch, which was a neck-high fastball sure to back batters off the plate. Christy Mathewson threw his fadeaway pitch that was later known as a screwball and thrown so effectively by Pedro Martinez and Fernando Valenzuela.

Dickey, the New York Mets right-hander, baffles batters and sometimes his own catchers. He is the only current major leaguer whose primary pitch is the knuckleball, a pitch with little or no spin is hard to hit because it floats and can unexpectedly dart or move in any direction. It's also supposed to be hard for pitchers to control.

Now there is Darvish, who won 93 games and had a 1.99 ERA as a two-time MVP and five-time All-Star over seven seasons in Japan before signing with Texas last winter.

"He really throws seven, eight different pitches," said All-Star starting catcher Mike Napoli of the Rangers. "Yu's stuff, all of his pitches are pretty good."

Texas manager Ron Washington is quick to point out that Darvish is still learning the different hitters in his new league.

"We may not see the real Yu Darvish until toward the end of the year and going into next year," Washington said. "He's doing things on the fly. He's in a tough situation and his still thriving. ... He's got stuff and he's going to figure out how to package it and use it."

And he still already has five games with at least 10 strikeouts this season, matching Dickey's total before the All-Star break.

Source: Saints, Brees apart on guaranteed money

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Drew Brees and the New Orleans Saints still must close a significant gap in guaranteed money if they are to agree on a five-year contract worth about $100 million by Monday's looming deadline for a long-term deal, said a person familiar with the negotiations.

The sides were more than $10 million apart in the guaranteed portion of the contract on Wednesday, the person told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because talks are ongoing.

The stakes are high for both sides and the negotiations have lasted for months, including long gaps in communication between the two camps.

Brees, who is 33 and entering his 12th season, has never before had the chance to negotiate a contract on par with the elite quarterbacks of the game.

The Saints, meanwhile, risk alienating the best quarterback in franchise history, not to mention their fan base, by failing to make an offer to his satisfaction by Monday—the deadline for players with the franchise tag to sign long-term deals.

Several months ago, Brees first raised the possibility that he would not report to the opening of training camp if all that was on the table at that time was the one-year franchise tag of about $16.3 million. People familiar with the quarterback's plans say that remains the case.

Brees has said he does not want to play under a one-year contract with no long-term security in the coming seasons. He did it once before, with costly consequences, when he played under the franchise tag for San Diego in 2005 and wound up with a career-threatening injury to his throwing shoulder.

That injury led him to accept a six-year, $60 million deal with New Orleans in 2006, which left him playing for well below market value during the past few seasons, even as he was setting club and league records.

Brees had hoped that an extension would be done before 2011, but when it was not, he decided against holding out and played without the security of a long-term contract. He remained healthy the entire season and passed for an NFL single-season record 5,476 yards. Brees considered that an act of faith in the Saints, and now he is expecting that faith be returned in the form of a contract that not only would give him the highest average annual salary in the game, but also guarantee a significant portion of his salary.

In the NFL, players can be cut before their contracts expire, and while signing and subsequent year option bonuses are guaranteed, base salaries are not.

General manager Mickey Loomis has said he understands that Brees' contract is the most important deal on which he has worked in his front office career. However, he has stressed that such a deal, with the potential to affect the team's ability to sign other players, must be entered into with caution.

Both sides have offered proposals that would give the Saints more flexibility under the NFL's salary cap in the next three years than New Orleans would have if Brees played for the franchise tag.

In those proposals, a relatively low base salary number in the early years would be offset by guaranteed signing and option bonuses that are pro-rated, for salary cap purposes, over the life of the contract.

If the Saints were to use their franchise tag on Brees again in 2013, they would have to pay him about $23.5 million, which represents a significantly higher salary cap figure than what either side's five-year proposal calls for in that season.

Such a contract structure would increase the salary cap burden of Brees' deal significantly in the final years, but the salary cap likely will be higher by then.

The current salary cap is about $120 million, but could rise substantially under a new NFL TV deal that will begin in 2014. Under the league's current labor agreement, players are supposed to receive about 55 percent of TV revenues.

If the two sides can narrow their differences on the guarantees, the remaining portions of the contract should be easier to figure out.

Both sides are working from a framework of five years. The difference in the annual average pay is about $1.25 million, with the Saints' last offer at about $19.25 million and Brees' last proposal at about $20.5 million.

However, it is not yet clear how much Brees is willing to come down from his annual figure, which some in his camp have argued is low, based on past trends.

Peyton Manning recently signed a five-year, $96 million deal, which averages $19.2 million. Manning is three years older than Brees and did not play last season because of neck surgery.

Meanwhile, teams have had a history of offering new contracts to elite players which represent annual multimillion dollar increases over the previous top contract for a player at the same position. Detroit receiver Calvin Johnson's last contract averages $16.2 million a year, which exceeds the previous benchmark deal of Arizona's Larry Fitzgerald by more than $1 million per year.

Even major contracts can be negotiated quickly under deadline pressure, and the types of differences the Saints and Brees have now can be resolved in less than a day, so there remains plenty of time to work out a deal.

However, if the deadline passes without a long-term contract, Brees could still hold out for a one-year contract worth more than the current franchise tag. Brees also could hold out until the Saints put it in writing that they will not use the franchise tag on him again next season, allowing him to test the open market.

AP

In this Feb. 7, 2010 file photo New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees (9) holds the Vince Lombardi Trophy after the NFL Super Bowl XLIV football game against the Indianapolis Colts in Miami.

USADA grants Armstrong 30-day extension

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—The U.S. Anti-Doping Agency on Wednesday granted Lance Armstrong an extension of up to 30 days to contest drug charges while the seven-time Tour de France winner challenges the case in federal court.

The move erases the Saturday deadline for Armstrong to either send the case to arbitration or accept sanctions from USADA, which would likely include a lifetime ban from cycling and other sports along with stripping the Tour titles he won from 1999-2005.

Armstrong this week sued in U.S. District Court in Austin to block the case from moving forward, arguing that USADA's arbitration process violates his constitutional rights and that the agency doesn't have jurisdiction over the alleged doping violations.

Granted the extension, Armstrong attorney Tim Herman on Wednesday withdrew a request for a temporary restraining order while Judge Sam Sparks reviews the complaint and a request for an injunction.

Armstrong

USADA accused Armstrong in June of performance-enhancing drug use throughout much of his career. Armstrong insists he is innocent and says he never failed a drug test.

Travis Tygart, USADA's chief executive, predicted Armstrong's lawsuit will be dismissed.

"USADA believes this lawsuit, like previous lawsuits aimed at concealing the truth, is without merit and is confident the court will continue to uphold the established rules which are compliant with federal law and were approved by athletes, the U.S. Olympic Committee, and all Olympic sports organizations," Tygart said in a statement.

Johan Bruyneel, the manager on Armstrong's winning teams, who also has been charged, is not covered by the 30-day extension, even though USADA had consolidated their cases, USADA spokeswoman Annie Skinner said.

Bruyneel still faces a Saturday deadline to challenge the charges or be sanctioned, Skinner said. Bruyneel, who manages the Radioshack-Nissan-Trek team, skipped this year's Tour de France because of the investigation.

RadioShack-Nissan-Trek team spokesman Philippe Maertens declined to comment, and said he was "100 percent sure" that Bruyneel didn't want to comment.

Three former medical staff members and consultants on Armstrong's winning teams received lifetime bans from sport from USADA on Tuesday.

Luis Garcia del Moral was a team doctor; Michele Ferrari was a consulting doctor; and Jose "Pepe" Marti (team trainer) worked for Armstrong's U.S. Postal Service and Discovery Channel squads. All had been accused by USADA of participating in a vast doping conspiracy on those teams during part or all of Armstrong's seven Tour victories.

There was no indication that those three cooperated with the USADA investigation before receiving the maximum punishment.

Another team doctor, Pedro Celaya, also has been charged. A USADA statement announcing the penalties against Moral, Ferrari and Marti suggested Celaya chose to send his case to arbitration.

Source: Tour rider could be charged

PARIS (AP) — The Tour de France cyclist and two other people arrested in connection with a doping investigation could be preliminarily charged in Marseille late Wednesday or Thursday.

Cofidis rider Remy Di Gregorio was arrested on Tuesday along with two other people suspected of supplying him with banned substances.

A judicial official said the preliminary charges against the three could include the organized offer or sale to an athlete of a substance banned in competition; the organized administration, solicitation or import of the substance; and violating rules against trafficking in or use of poisonous substances.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak about an ongoing investigation.

Di Gregorio has been provisionally suspended by the team pending the outcome of an investigation.

The 26-year-old was in 35th place after Monday's ninth stage. The Marseille native turned pro in 2005 with French team Francaise des Jeux, and was once considered one of the most promising young French riders.

"After being legitimately floored by this event, the riders have recovered," said Cofidis manager Yvon Sanquer at the stage start in Macon in eastern France on Wednesday. "They are ready to give their best and we will now be fighting for the best young rider's white jersey for Rein Taaramae."

Di Gregorio's teammates were not available for questions regarding the investigation.

Crowd-pleasing Arce next for Donaire

By MARC ANTHONY REYES
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BOXING

CARSON, California—His dream of super fights is finally coming true for Nonito Donaire Jr.

The Filipino Flash, perhaps the Philippines' newest candidate for boxing superstardom, begins his fresh quest with the much anticipated clash with feisty Mexican Jorge Arce in October.

No less than Donaire's promoter, Bob Arum of Top Rank, and his manager Cameron Dunkin pledged the big, lucrative fights ahead minutes after the Filipino-American fighter unanimously decisioned South African Jeffrey Mathebula in their super bantamweight title unification bout Saturday at Home Depot Center here.

Although Arce won't be holding any championship during that projected fight, that encounter will pit two of the most exciting fighters in the 122-pound division

"We knew that this fight (against Mathebula) leads to an Arce fight this fall, and it's a fight that's big on HBO," said Dunkin.

"It's Arce either in October or November. We are committed to fight Arce, we have an agreement, verbal agreement, to fight Arce."

Dunkin, who still has two more fights as manager of Donaire, added: "We are also in verbal agreement to fight another guy and then we start looking at (WBA champion Guillermo) Rigondeaux."

Arce, a peppery warrior from Los Mochis, Sinaloa, Mexico, slid down to bantamweight last year after yielding the WBO super bantamweight belt, which Donaire eventually annexed after beating Wilfredo Vazquez Jr. last February.

Unanimous winner Nonito Donaire of the Philippines celebrates a unanimous decision over Jeffery Mathebula of South Africa during the WBO IBF Super Bantamweight title fight at The Home Depot Center on July 7, 2012, in Carson, California. AP

Arum said the 35-year-old Toshiaki Nishioka, who was at ringside Saturday night, will be next for Donaire in December.

"And then we can have Rigondeaux and (WBC titlist) Abner Mares next," said the boxing Hall of Famer.

However, Arum said there is no plan to hold the Arce fight in Manila, contrary to his announcement last year.

"It's probably in October, but not in Manila," said Arum. "We don't have any sponsors talking to us about doing it in Manila. Unless we have local sponsors we can't do it by ourselves because we're so busy over here."

"Hopefully, the (Arce fight) will be a bigger purse. Nonito gets the bigger purse of the two. He's the champion, he's the one driving HBO to the fight," added Dunkin. "Nothing's stopping it. Arce wanted to do a few things. He hasn't worked it out before but now it's settled and ready to go."

But while Dunkin is sure that Donaire would eventually break through the pay-per-view domain with the Arce fight, Arum said they are still not ready for PPV until next year.

According to Arum, it was mainly because HBO is still not sure if the boxing public is ready to pay to see fighters in the lower weight divisions.

"It used to be very hard (getting a crowd draw), but it's becoming easy now because fans, especially the Hispanic community, have embraced smaller guys," said Arum. "And you know they watch guys down to 108 pounds or less.

"It's not particularly hard," he added. "It used to be that networks, when they televised the fights, wanted (fights) not lower than lightweight. (That was the case) until they made adjustments with guys like Azumah Nelson."

18A Friendship Summer Jam caging tips off July 28

Early registration is ongoing for the upcoming 18A Friendship Summer Jam Basketball Tournament, which is scheduled to start on July 29, 6:30pm at the Garapan Basketball Court.

A cash grand prize is up for grabs to the champion squad, which will be determined based on the number of competing teams.

Nine teams have already shown interest in participating and slots are still available.

The entrance fee for teams that sign up before opening night is set at $150. Late registration costs $175 per team.

Organizers are requesting late registrants to show up before the opening pairings at 5pm to complete the sign-up process.

Rosters are limited to 15 players per team who all must be present on opening night to sign the waiver forms and go over the tournament format and rules.

Players must be at least 18 in order to be eligible to play.

For more information, contact Dante Olivos at 989-6286 or Ray Lizama at 788-2434. ***(Walter Cepeda Sutherland)***

5K fun run tomorrow

The 10th Fire Cycle Fire Fun Run will be held tomorrow, starting at the parking lot of the Oleai Sports Complex.

The race begins at 7am with a registration starting at 6am. The 5K run will finish at the Garapan Fishing Base.

Entrance fee is only $5 and donation is accepted and funds to be collected will be used for the graduation and banquet expenses of the 10th Fire Cycle Fire next month.

The Top 3 placers of the race will be recognized after the race, while a raffle draw will also take place. ***(PR)***

Masters baseball meeting tonight

Interested master-level baseball players age 40 and above are invited to attend a meeting at 5:30pm tonight at the Minachom Atdao pavilion, across the street from Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The meeting is in connection with a masters baseball tournament in Guam this coming September.

Contact Tony Rogolifoi at 788-3966 for more information. ***(Walter Cepeda Sutherland)***

MAWATI

From Page 32

of the extension period, forced a couple of turnovers, and drew clutch baskets from Spam Avila.

Avila, who earlier muffed two free throws that could have cut Mawati's 3-point lead, 54-57, to one in the final two minutes, trooped to the line anew when Brabu lost the leather past midcourt and gave up a foul. This time he nailed the two charities and later stepped on the foul line, again for an and-1 play after picking up a loose ball off another Brabu error from the top key. Avila made the bonus for Mawati's 59-57 advantage, 54 seconds left on the clock.

A missed drive from Danny Dayrit and two more errors doomed Brabu's chances in the game, while Francis Serrano, who also muffed his first two free throws, went 2-for-2 on his next trip to the 15-foot line in the last 24 seconds to seal the win.

Mawati failed to win the game in regulation despite dominating most of the match after Bryan Manalon made a 3-point play in the paint to tie the game, 51-all, 12.6 seconds left on the clock. Brabu then used its last foul before entering penalty to foil a Mawati offense and with 1.6 seconds left, the latter ran out of time executing another play, sending the game into overtime.

In the second game, Irish Spring used its advantage in the paint to thwart the young crew of the Fastbreakers, who missed key player Melvin Cadiang in the important game.

Big men Ron Hernandez, Art Trajano, and Bernard Samson combined for 47 of Irish Spring's total points to help the team advance to the Final Four. The trio teamed up for 10 of Irish Spring's first 12 points in the fourth canto, turning a slim 40-39 lead to a 52-41 advantage, with less than four minutes left on the clock.

The Fastbreakers, who was scoreless in the first six minutes the first canto, had another dry spell in the fourth period, making only one field goal for more than six minutes off Niko Salem's fastbreak.

Jack Aranda ended the drought to spark a short run and the Fastbreakers managed to move within 6 points, 48-54, as it pressured the rattled Irish Spring in the ensuing plays. The Fastbreakers continued to hound Irish Spring ball handlers from the backcourt, but Sam Fernandez broke loose and found Trajano cutting to the basket for a rally halting layup.

The Fastbreakers kept on fighting in the last two minutes of the match, but Irish Spring secured the game from the foul line, making 7 free throws.

First Game

Mawati 61 – Reyes 18, Tenepere 19, Avila 9, Serrano 9, Pena 5, Enriquez 4, Ibanes 4.

Brabu Gualo Rai 57 – Jose 13, Dayrit 11, Manalon 11, Galzote 8, Mamaril 6, Mallari 4.

Scoring by quarters: 17-12, 29, 16, 43-32, 51-51, 61-57.

Second Game

Irish Spring 63 – Hernandez 18, Trajano 17, Samson 12, Fernandez 9, Brien 2.

Fastbreakers 55 – Salem 14, Palacios 9, De Leon 8, Taylor 7, Aranda 7, Saturno 4, Manangan 3.

Scoring by quarters: 12-11, 27-28, 40-39, 63-55.

VISMINDA

From Page 32

and Francisco also finished in double digits with 13 and 11, respectively.

VisMinda/Hi-Five 65 – Cruz 17, Wong 13, Francisco 11, Cristobal 7, Aresaga 6, Lucido 4, Sabangan 2.

MDX/Armatech 63 – Feria 19, Borromeo 12, Deocares 11, Francisco 11, Cudua 3, Cudia 3, Leyco 2.

Scoring by quarters: 6-8, 14-19, 22-40, 51-51, 65-63.

GUERRERO

From Page 32

on hole No. 9 for a gross total of 41.

After the handicap adjustment, Guerrero swiped the glory with a 30.5 net score, while Tudela ended up with a net card of 39.

Guerrero's fellow golfers observed how well she kept herself calm throughout the round. She was definitely on a mission on Sunday and did a good job keeping her eye on the prize.

Ten other golfers participated in Sunday's July qualifier round, which resulted in top honors going to Felix Sasamoto, who completed the round with a respectable 84 gross that adjusted into a field-low 65 net score.

Right behind him came Danny Quitugua, who shot a 41 on the front and finished the back side with a 39 for an even 80 gross total that worked into a 66 net tally.

Third place finisher John Matsumoto penciled in a 45 on the front nine and charged home on the back with a 41 for an 84 gross total that was shaved down to a 68 net score.

Other notables included Shirley Jones (89 gross) and Frank Sablan (81 gross) who ended up with net counts of 73.

Amigo's July Ace final round is scheduled for July 22 at the Kingfisher Golf Links.

There are over 20 active Amigo members and new players are always welcome.

For more information, contact John Guerrero at 287-6352, Joe Sablan Jr. at 322-1177, or Lorraine Babauta at 989-7732.

ABRAMS

From Page 32

the Land Down Under.

The 17-year-old Abrams missed the next round, as only the Top 3 runners on her heat were given qualifying tickets. Brazil Taramis de Liz was the first qualifier after clocking in at 11.56 seconds, followed by Jamaica's Shawnette Lewin (11.78 seconds) and Bahamas' Tayla Carter (12.00 seconds). Joining Abrams and de Liz on Heat 2 were Trinidad and Tobago's Aaliyah Telesford (12.05 seconds), Saint Kitts and Nevis' Brittany Morton (12.21 seconds), San Marino's Alice Capicchioni (13.13 seconds), and Nigeria's Goodness Thomas (13.15 seconds).

Twenty-one other runners, including advanced to the second round of the 100m sprint,

Incidentally, de Liz also posted the fastest qualifying time, tying American Dezerea Bryant, who won Heat 5. However, Bahamas' Anthonique Strachan won the event with a blistering time of 11.20 seconds.

Meanwhile, Abrams is expected to return to Saipan this weekend after being away for more than three weeks. She left the island on June 24 with the seven-man CNMI Team that participated in the Oceania Regional Championships 2012 held at the Barlow Park in Cairns.

In the Oceania championship, she competed in the 100m and 200m runs and helped the CNMI won a bronze medal in the 4x100m relay race, teaming up with Yvonne Bennett, Lia Rangamar, and Reylynn Sapong.

Then after the three-day tournament (June 27 to 29) in Cairns, Abrams traveled to Brisbane to join a training camp with her fellow World Juniors participants from Oceania Athletic Association-member countries.

MP United caps summer youth camp

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

MP United Football Club concluded its seven-day summer youth camp with a couple of scrimmages yesterday at the Garapan Elementary School field.

The camp, which started on June 29 and continued on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday last week, and last Monday and Wednesday, drew players in the U10 to U18 age groups.

Many time CNMI National Team member Nick Swaim was the camp coach with former MP United players Lucas Knecht and Bo Barry assisting him. Women's National Team members Katie Peters and Carrie Schuler also helped out in the clinic.

Swaim and the two other youth players, who are on island to play for the CNMI Team that will participate in the EAFF Asian Cup 2013 Preliminary Competition Round 1, conducted two sessions per each day of the camp. The morning session from 8am to 10am was for the players in U10 to U13 age group, while 1pm to 3pm slot one was U13 to U18.

"As coach Nick allowed up to a 22-player class size, the club opened the camp to participants from other clubs in addition to MP United players. We have about 19 in the younger group and 12 in the older group. The sessions focused on different drills and skill building and tactics, especially in the older group," MP United official Vickie Izuka said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

Swaim in a short interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday said he liked what he saw on the players who attended the camp.

"It is nice to be back and see more youth talents here now. Four years ago, CNMI youths are just starting to learn the game. Now, there are many good players, their skills have improved a lot," Swaim said.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

CNMI National Team member Nick Swaim, fourth from right back row, poses with participants in the last day of MP United's summer soccer youth camp at the Garapan Elementary School yesterday.

"I just wish they will continue playing and improving their skills. They should keep practicing what they have learned from the camp," he added.

Meanwhile, MP United would like to thank Garapan Elementary School, IT&E, and Konflikt for making the summer camp possible.

"The administrators at GES have been so helpful. They allowed us to use the field and assisted us in a cultural exchange with some Japanese youth visiting from our sister club Vivid Blue. We are so grateful for all of these special people," Izuka said.

"Camp sponsors include IT&E and Konflikt Clothing. We are so grateful to these sponsors as they continue to support our club's missions to develop youth through organization, training, and education, and teach teamwork, leadership, and responsibility," she added.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants and coaches of Saipan Swim Club's American Red Cross "Learn To Swim" program pose for a group photo at poolside of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan early this month.

SSC holds clinic at Laolao

The Saipan Swim Club will offer its third American Red Cross "Learn To Swim" programs, starting on Monday at the pool of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

The clinic will run from July 16 to 20 and will be held from 9am to 10am. Entry fee for the five-day clinic is only $25 per each swimmer. Additional swimmers from the same family will get a discount and will pay only $20. The clinic is for swimmers in the 5-and-above age group.

As an authorized Red Cross Aquatics Training provider, SSC will issue ARC "Learn To Swim" cards upon completion of each session.

Interested participants must be at the Laolao pool by 8am to fill out the registration forms. Children should arrive in their swimsuit and bring goggles and a towel. Each participant should have a parent or guardian present on the deck near the swimmer at all times. Children are not allowed to run or play unsupervised at the resort property at any time before, during, or after instruction.

SSC would like to thank the Laolao Bay Golf Resort for allowing the club to conduct the ARC "Learn to Swim" program at the resort's pool. The club also recognized ARC for its continuing support.

For more information about the clinic or for pre-registration, send email to coach@saipanswimclub.com, call 234-5750/234-7859 or fax at 234-5749. ***(SSC)***

Dickinsons rule SRCR July stock races

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Jude and Butter Dickinson claimed the checkered flags in the Saipan Radio Control Racers' July race series, finishing as the respective winners of the A and B stock events last Sunday at the As Lito Track.

Jude Dickinson's TraXXas Slash led all 14 laps of the A Stock final and finished 10 seconds ahead of the field with a post time of 2:43:71 seconds; his fastest lap time was 23:03 and averaged 27:36 per lap.

Rodney Catalla took second place with his HPI Blitz (3:13:21) just ahead of Paul Salalila's TraXXas Slash (3:15:14). Fourth placer Jojo Saracho (3:15:78) just missed the podium this month.

Butter Dickinson's TraXXas Slash, meanwhile, outlasted Franz Decena's entry, while James Salalila's Kyosho Ultima rounded out the third spot of the B Stock series. Official post times were not made available.

Both Dickinsons also came into their respective final heats as top qualifiers.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jude Dickinson's Traxxas Slash rounds a turn ahead of Rodney Catalla's HPI Blitz in the A-Stock qualifying heat during SRCR's July races at their club track last Sunday in As Lito.

Meanwhile, Paul Salalila's Kyosho Ultima SC-R led all 14 laps of the Open Stock final and crossed the finish line in 2:45:08. He averaged 30:32 per lap and turned in a personal best lap time of 28:68.

Jude Dickinson settled for second place in his Team Losi SCT-XXX (3:23:64) ahead of Saracho's HPI Blitz ESE (3:25:27).

Rodney Catalla came into the Open Stock final with the fastest qualifying time.

There are over 20 active SRCR members, and growing, which regularly take part in practices every Sunday in As Lito.

The group tries to hold a day-long monthly event in their four racing categories. The public is welcome to check out the track and learn more about the hobby.

Contact SRCR's Rodney Catalla at 256-7119 for more information.

Fiesta Resort hosts beach soccer anew next month

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's 3rd Annual Beach Soccer Tournament is slated for Aug. 11 at the Garapan hotel's beachside.

Organizers said late registration will be open from 7:30am to 9am and games start at 9:30am.

Teams are requested to show up at 7:30am so they can warm up and go over the rules with event organizers.

The entrance fee to participate is $10 per player and at least five players are required on a team. The entrance fee includes coupons for drinks and beverages that players can use during the competition.

Other beverages and food will also available sale during the event.

A raffle drawing will also take place where various prizes will be handed out from sponsors Pacific Trading Co., Tan Holdings, Docomo Pacific, Rota Water, and Kanoa Resort.

The event will feature two age divisions, a youth 18-and-under and an adult 18-and-above. Games will be played in a five-on-five format.

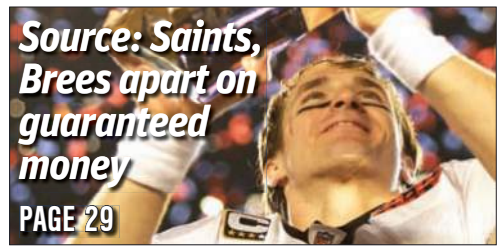
Organizers said $300 cash and individual trophies will be awarded to the winners with $200 for the runners-up and $100 for the third place finishers.

Second and third placers will be issued team trophies and sportsmanship awards will also be selected after the conclusion of the tournament.

For more information or to register early, contact Fiesta Resort's Christy Villaflor at 234-7171 ext. 1508. ***(Walter Cepeda Sutherland)***

SPORTS
TSL
COMPLEX
Activity Schedule for Friday, July 13, 2012
2012 Summer Futsal League
6:30 PM U18 Boys' Division IT&E vs. Mean Machine
7:30 PM Women's Division Baked Girls vs. IT&E Awesome
8:30 PM Men's Division Shirley's vs. IT&E
SAIPAN
SOCCER SCHOOL

Saipan Tribune
Sports



Mawati, Irish Spring enter semis

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 2012 DLX/DL JOS Inter-Color Basketball League is down to four teams after Mawati and Irish Spring ousted two more squads in their separate playoff games last Wednesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Mawati eliminated Brabu Gualo Rai after escaping with a 61-57 overtime win in the first game, while Irish Spring booted out the Fastbreakers, following a tough win, 64-55, in another low-scoring match. Irish Spring and Mawati collide against Team Pogi and KFC/Taco Bell, respectively, in tonight's semifinals matches.

After wasting an 11-point lead in the third quarter, Mawati avoided a total collapse when it held Brabu scoreless in the last 2:02

See MAWATI on Page 30

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Irish Spring's Art Trajano, right, and Bernard Samson, left, challenge the shot of the Fastbreakers' Luther Taylor during their playoff game in the DLX/DL JOS caging last Wednesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Abrams completes World Juniors race

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI's Rachel Abrams finished her off-island races last Wednesday after competing in the 2012 IAFF World Junior Championships at the Olympic Stadium Lluís Companys de Montjuïc in Barcelona, Spain.

The CNMI sprinter ran in the 100m race and timed in at 13.05 seconds on Heat 2 to finish sixth on her group. Her time was listed on the World Juniors website as a personal best time in an outdoor track, however it was .04 of a second behind the 13.01 she posted in the finals of the U20 100m race in the Oceania championships last month in Australia. Abrams's time in Spain was faster than her 13.09 qualifying time in the similar race in

See ABRAMS on Page 30

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Rachel Abrams, seen here getting ready for a practice run at the Oleai Sports Complex last month, raced in the 100m run in the 2012 IAFF World Junior Championships at the Olympic Stadium Lluís Companys de Montjuïc last Wednesday in Barcelona, Spain.

VisMinda/Hi-Five outlasts MDX in OT

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

VisMinda/Hi-Five took the long route to the finals of the U14 division of the 2012 UFO Docomo Pacific Cup after outclassing MDX/Armatech in overtime, 65-63, during their semis game last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

It was a come-from-behind win and a first for the season for VisMinda as it trailed by as much as 18 points in the third period of the playoff game and dropped its first two meetings against MDX. With the upset, VisMinda earned the right to face the favored DYS/SMF in the winner-take-all finals this Sunday at 12pm.

MDX seemed headed for a finals date against DYS when it led, 40-22, at the end of the third period. However, VisMinda spoiled MDX's party when it climbed its way back into the game behind the 13 points of Jethro Cruz, who was held to only one field goal in the first three quarters before exploding in the final canto.

Cruz nailed a crucial triple in the homestretch, while Elnathan Wong split his free throws to force a deadlock at the end of the regulation, 51-51, and extend the game to five more minutes.

VisMinda, which scored no more than 8 points in each of the first three quarters, allowing MDX to take control of the match, went all out in the fourth period, outgunning the latter, 29-11. Wong, Francisco, Loewell Cristobal, and Champ Sabangan provided enough support to Cruz in the fourth-quarter rally, while only Dickey Feria logged more than one field goal for MDX, which had only three field goals in the final-canto collapse.

Then in overtime, Wong and Francisco combined for 10 of VisMinda's 14 points to steal the win and the second finals ticket. Cruz and Hay Mercene nailed the two other VisMinda baskets in the extension.

Only Art Borromeo and Melvin Deocares drained field goals for MDX in the extra five minutes, as it clearly missed the services of Feria, who fouled out midway in overtime. Feria left the game after posting a game-high 19 points.

Cruz top-scored for VisMinda with 17, while Wong

See VISMINDA on Page 30

VisMinda/Hi-Five's Elnathan Wong pulls up for a jumper against two MDX/Armatech players during their second round game in the U14 division of the UFO Docomo Pacific Cup at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium early this month.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Guerrero wins Amigo June Ace

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After finishing last month's two-round June Ace at the Kingfisher Golf Links tied with Joe Tudela, Terry Guerrero posted a gross 41 last Sunday on the front nine of the same course to come away with the Amigo Golf Club's monthly spoils.

Guerrero

Sunday's round was actually Amigo's July Ace qualifier, but since the pair was tied after last month's square off with overall net scores of 163, they duked it out on the front nine to see who will be last month's coveted ace golfer.

Other members that turned out for the event attested that both June finalists were all business from the start and in full concentration.

Guerrero and Tudela were paired together last Sunday and both got off to good starts with solid pars on hole No. 1.

Guerrero followed with another par on hole No. 2, while Tudela settled for a bogey.

Tudela attacked hole No. 3, but ended up with a double bogey, which enabled Guerrero to take a two-stroke lead.

Then the course beckoned on holes No. 4 and 5 as the couple scratched a pair of triple bogeys.

Both golfers regrouped on hole No. 7, but Guerrero bested Tudela again with a clutch birdie putt to put her three strokes in front.

Tudela finished holes No. 7, 8, and 9 with a par, bogey, and a double bogey and finished with a gross core of 45, but could not catch Guerrero who finished the front side four strokes ahead with a bogey, a par, and a bogey

See GUERRERO on Page 30